

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 7, 1990

Published Since 1877

Czech government frees church to build

By Mike Creswell

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (BP) — Baptists in Czechoslovakia are dusting off church construction plans that have been shelved for up to 20 years.

They want to construct new buildings or renovate old ones in a dozen or more locations. And finally, leaders say, they will be free to build churches that look like churches without fear of communist reprisal.

"We never thought we'd get an opportunity to use these plans, but we were ready," said Pavol Kondac, president of the Slovakian Baptist council and pastor of Bratislava Baptist Church. A church building constructed last year was the first for Baptists in more than 40 years.

In Bratislava, the nation's second-

largest city, Baptists meet in a former Lutheran funeral chapel allotted by the government. Several hundred people fill the sanctuary, requiring chairs in the aisle. The building needs renovation and lacks classroom or office space. Members rent a basement several blocks away for children's Sunday school, youth meetings, and other functions.

Before the democratic revolution of 1989, plans for a new building were drawn up with an eye to close scrutiny by communist government authorities.

The structure was purposefully designed to look like a factory, not a church, said Valdimir Dvorak, secretary of the Slovakian Baptist council. "Now, we will make some modifications," he said.

Revised plans will include meeting rooms for Baptists throughout the area, a Christian bookstore, a chapel for weddings and an area for ministry to senior citizens. At the present site, the congregation recently erected a sign announcing its name. Earlier, signs were not allowed.

But even with new freedoms, getting any new building constructed will be difficult. Money and resources are low for Baptists throughout the country.

In Bratislava, the congregation is competing with other church groups for one of 16 church sites the city government is doling out.

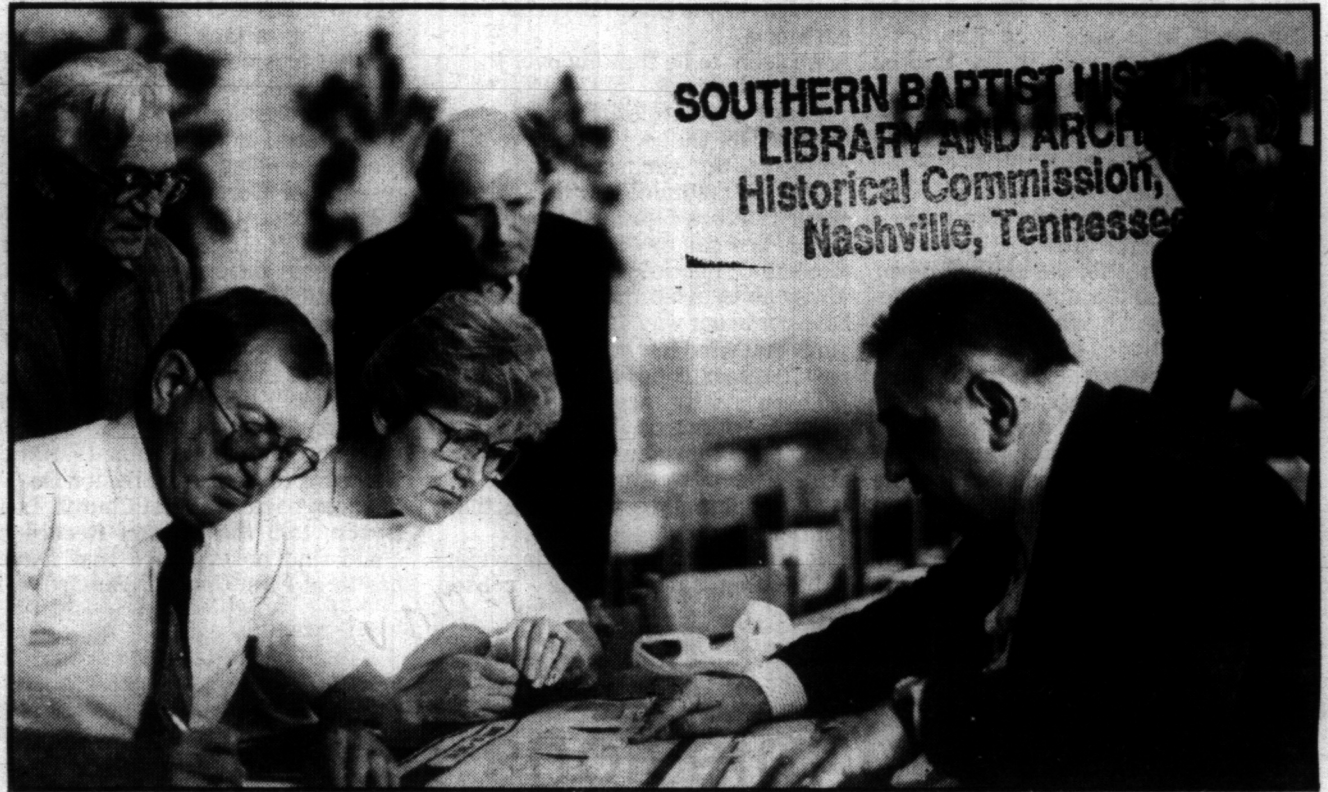
Leaders of other Baptist churches across the country say lack of money is now the biggest barrier to getting suitable buildings for worship.

At Ruzomberok, lay leader Samuel Makonyi estimates a new building for a 40-member congregation will cost almost \$60,000. At Poprad, a city some 180 miles from Bratislava, pastor Albin Masarik estimates a new building would cost more than \$389,000. A 55-member congregation in Litomerice has managed to construct a building after financial sacrifice. Now they are struggling to pay off a \$5,000 loan and secure a house for their pastor.

These amounts of money may seem small by American standards, but in the country's economy a worker earns about \$2,000 per year.

Baptists also are struggling to begin paying the salaries of their pastors after years of receiving modest salaries from the national government. "In earlier times, Baptists did not accept funds from the state, but we were forced to do so during the past 40 years," said Pavel Titera, president of the Czechoslovakian Baptist Union.

Baptist leaders are urging churches to begin paying salaries this year and stop all government paychecks by next year — a sensitive subject being discussed in union meetings. Not all pastors believe accepting government paychecks is a bad policy, and paying pastor salaries will be a major financial undertaking for the congregations.



Southern Baptist representative Errol Simmons, former Mississippian, seated at left, reviews church building plans with Juraj Pribula, seated at right, pastor of a 115-member church in Kosice, eastern Czechoslovakia. Many Baptists in the newly liberated country are eager to build a proper church building, but 40 years of communist rule have left them with few resources. Only since December's revolution have churches even dared to erect signs. Standing, from the left, are Valdimir Dvorak, secretary of Slovakian Baptists; pastor Julius Stupza of Dunajszatuzua; and pastor Juraj Kohilt of Nesvady. Marcela Hlubocka, seated at center, helps translate. (BP) PHOTO By Mike Creswell

Prague crusade marks new day

By Mike Creswell

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (BP) — About 1,000 people — one-tenth of the audience — stepped forward to express interest in accepting Jesus Christ as Savior during a May evangelistic crusade in Prague led by former American astronaut James Irwin and British Baptist evangelist Vic Jackopson.

It was one of the largest evangelical crusades held in Czechoslovakia since democracy was established last December. Baptists joined Methodists, Brethren, and other groups in sponsoring the event in a Prague sports hall.

Most of those responding checked cards indicating, "I want to accept Jesus as my Savior" or "I would like my spiritual life to be deeper."

Czechoslovakian Baptist Union leader Pavel Titera joined Jackopson and Irwin, a Southern Baptist, in a visit to Hradcany Castle in Prague, where they presented national President Vaclav Havel with a Czechoslovakian flag that had been to the moon. The three also prayed with Havel.

The visit was the third time Titera has spoken to Havel. Earlier he gave a personal Christian testimony to the leader, urging him to follow in the steps of former Czechoslovakian President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, a staunch evangelical who led the country between 1918 and 1935.

"Brothers, it's a new day," Titera

told the union's central administrative committee recently as he displayed an engraved invitation asking him to attend a state reception given by Havel at Hradcany Castle.

During the reception, Havel ordered the doors opened and allowed the public to enter. "Hundreds of people came in off the street. It was quite remarkable," Titera said.

Evangelical Christians still are marveling at such occurrences less than a year after church leaders tried to keep a low profile to avoid communist government scrutiny. In January the government scrapped a 1949 law controlling religious activities.

Follow-up with people who made spiritual decisions during the crusade will be a top priority with Baptists and other evangelicals in coming weeks, said Eva Titera, the Baptist leader's wife. "It's very important that these people be nourished well. It's our responsibility to lead them and let them grow."

That impression was echoed by British-born Diana Jankovic, who lives with her husband, Slavomer, in Bratislava. The two work with young people at the Bratislava Baptist Church.

"For 40 years there has been very little Bible teaching," she said.

"People are starving. I see many people who are hungry for God's Word and don't know how to live as Chris-

tians." Pseudo-Christian groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses and a wide range of Eastern religious groups and New Age proponents have become active in the country in recent months, she said.

Such groups pose a threat to young people, she stated, since "anything Western is interesting for them." But getting young people to attend church is easier now, she added, because they are no longer threatened with the loss of study opportunities if they come.

Younger Christians are better prepared for evangelistic outreach than their parents, said Mirck Ira, a father of two who also works with teen-agers at the church. "They're not so limited as we older ones, and their expression of Christianity is more spontaneous. In the evangelical churches, we're not prepared for the changes in our society."

Another challenge for evangelicals will be the growing strength of the Roman Catholic Church, which in other parts of Europe has at times opposed evangelical outreach. Czechoslovakia and several other Eastern European countries have re-established diplomatic ties with the Vatican, and Pope John Paul II recently visited Prague, Bratislava and Velehrad. More than 10 million of Czechoslovakia's 15.6 million people are considered Roman Catholic.

Creswell writes for FMB.



Errol Simmons preaches during a Sunday morning worship service at Bratislava Church in Czechoslovakia, with help from translator Marcela Hlubocka. Simmons, Southern Baptist representative to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, just completed a visit to discuss cooperative projects with Czechoslovakian Baptist leaders. Simmons is based in Budapest, Hungary. Southern Baptists have moved quickly to get aid and personnel into newly liberated Eastern European countries, working in cooperation with Baptist unions there. (BP) PHOTO By Mike Creswell

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A critical convention

Southern Baptists go to New Orleans next week for what may be the most critical convention of all the long agony of conventions since 1979. The smoldering feelings that had been boiling beneath the surface for years broke out into the open that year, and the Southern Baptist Camelot crashed into splinters.

Who knows what will happen? One wonders if there is any point in continuing to have annual meetings.

As we approach the convention time, there is one item that cannot be ignored. In a speech in Kentucky, mentioned last week in the *Baptist Record*, Morris Chapman, one of the candidates for president, said that the real issue before the convention is the authority of the Bible.

It is not an endorsement of any candidate or a non-endorsement when it is noted that the authority of the Bible is certainly not the issue. It never has been, and it is not now. Very likely, it never will be. Southern Baptists may have shades of differences concerning some issues, but the authority of the Bible is not one of them. That is a universal belief among us.

Statements such as this create problems in that there are many people who hear them who will take them to heart. The early rallying point for "conservatives" was the inerrancy issue. If there are Southern Baptists

who do not believe that what the Lord gave us in the Scripture was inerrant, they are very few. Later we heard that there were liberals teaching in the seminaries. The Peace Committee is reported to have found three at the six seminaries, but they haven't been named; and the records have been sealed. More recently we were told that we need to rally around a perfect Bible from a perfect God, but there are no Southern Baptists who could not march with that banner. The authority of the Bible falls in the same category.

We seem to be fighting over things we all believe.

Every time an issue surfaces and we discover that we all believe alike on the matter, the issue changes.

There is a genuine fear that we have spent 11 years fighting for nothing.

This is a call to whoever is elected to conduct his time in office in such a way as to avoid the problems that have come our way. It would seem obvious that what has happened over the past 11 years is not the way to do it.

There really are no great differences among us. There is no point in trying to convince people that there are — except to win elections.

And that makes the whole thing political.

It is political when an independent publication favoring the "conser-

vative" cause prints an attack on a seminary president that was written by a trustee before he attended his first meeting and was printed in the April issue relative a meeting that was held April 23-25. It is political when the editor of that paper prints an attack on an Arkansas pastor after that pastor as a member of the SBC committee on nominations had questioned the propriety of nominating the editor for a Sunday School Board trusteeship when the editor had served two terms and had been off only a year. The attack was written by another trustee who last year sought to have Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder censured. Much of the material didn't agree with official records studied by Dallas, Texas, researcher Gordon James.

The Peace Committee called for building bridges between any theological differences and ceasing the political activity. There have been no bridges built, and political activity continues unabated.

Perhaps there was at least the foundation for a bridge laid when David Spencer asked that his name not be considered in opposition to Randy Davis for the Foreign Mission Board. Spencer, pastor of First Church, Long Beach, told the *Baptist Record* he could find no evidence that Davis, pastor of First Church, Vancleave, is

a member of any political camp. Spencer's letter is in this week's issue.

Then there is the most frightening thought of all, the possibility that reconstructionism could be a driving force behind the entire SBC takeover effort. Reconstructionism is the concept which sets forth the idea of the reconstruction of an entire nation along the line of a rigid Old Testament

theocracy, which could easily turn into a religious dictatorship. If that were to happen to be true, the one entity standing squarely between the reconstructionists and success would be the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Surely it has escaped no one to what extent an effort is being made to get the Baptist Joint Committee out of Southern Baptist life.

Guest opinion . . .

World missions ripples

By J. C. Mitchell

Not long ago, Southern Baptist missionaries from home and foreign fields as well as state and associational assignments converged on the West Point — Starkville — Columbus area of Mississippi to participate in a World Missions Conference sponsored by Golden Triangle Baptist Missions. Thirty-four churches from Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha associations were involved in the eight-day schedule of missionary speakers.

Some of the results of the mission emphasis were immediate and statistically measurable such as cumulative attendance, professions of faith, mission volunteers, and total offerings. There were other results which were not so visible at first but which have an ongoing and long term impact. One might say there has been a "ripple effect" with results continuing to spread. Some examples will illustrate.

The Golden Triangle churches were generous in their love gifts for the visiting missionaries as they characteristically are. As a result, one of the foreign missionaries who serves in Peru wrote back to say that the gift of money had been especially helpful. It provided for some special medical attention needed by one of the children in the family.

A home missionary wrote to say that this had been her first experience as a World Missions Conference

speaker. She had been praying about going with her husband to Jamaica for a week of witnessing, but it seemed unlikely she could go because of the cost involved. In her words, "When we got home from our annual meeting on Monday evening your letter and check were in the mail. The pastor in charge of the trip had just told my husband that there was an increase in plane fare and that the flight would cost \$440. After subtracting \$49 from your check for tithe, the balance was \$440.87. God is so good!"

The ripples spread to San Francisco. Jim Pittman, pastor of Valley Baptist Church in "the City by the Bay" was another of the missionary speakers. Students at the BSU at Mississippi State University were so impressed with his unique style of ministry in that location that a group went out earlier this year to minister alongside Jim and his staff. They sang, witnessed, worked in a food distribution center, and helped in a building renovation. They still maintain contact and may return for further ministry.

The Midwest has also been touched by the spreading effect. When Ed McAllister, then a member of Canaan Church in Columbus heard Mrs. Betty Lou Steffey speak, he was deeply impressed. She told of the need for bivocational ministers to be church planters and pastors of small churches in Illinois. He had previously sur-

rendered to the gospel ministry but was not ordained. He felt the leadership of the Lord to send his resume for consideration. The outcome is that Brother McAllister closed his Columbus business and moved to Illinois with his wife and two daughters. He has since been ordained and now serves as pastor of Harvard Hills Baptist Church. Attendance has grown from about 12 at the beginning to 52 on a recent Sunday. After showing no baptisms for five years, the church has already noted at least six professions of faith this year.

The "ripples" continue to spread, and truly will never stop until the Lord returns and brings the age to a close.

J. C. Mitchell is director of missions for Golden Triange Baptist Missions.

Cross removed from church

TEMPE, Ariz. (EP) — A controversial cross that had topped an Arizona State University chapel here since 1948 has been removed. The cross was taken down to comply with a court ruling in a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In that case, Superior Court Judge Alfred Rogers ruled that the display of the cross on a state-supported building violated separation of church and state. The cross was placed in the archives of the school.

Baptist Beliefs . . .

Why Judas betrayed Jesus

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined, but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!" — Luke 22:22

Many efforts have been made to absolve Judas from guilt. Some say he was a super-patriot, that he betrayed Jesus to prevent a revolution in which Rome would destroy his nation. Others say that he was a super-Christian who betrayed Jesus in order to force him to set up his earthly kingdom. Still others say he was predestined to betray Jesus, and so is without personal guilt. One poet even pictures Jesus stepping down from his heavenly throne to apologize to Judas for what he was forced to do, and to welcome him into heaven as "friend Judas."

All this is based upon sentiment, not scripture. This is evident in Jesus' woe pronounced upon Judas.

From the beginning Judas' motives were self-centered. He aspired to earthly greatness in an earthly kingdom.

Trusted with the money bag of Jesus and the other apostles, he stole from it (John 12:6). His purpose in objecting to Mary's anointing Jesus was that he coveted the money the ointment would bring (about \$54. John 12:5-6).

Rebuked by Jesus, he went directly from this dinner to bargain for betraying Jesus (Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11). He agreed for 30 pieces of silver, about \$25. When he failed to get his hands on the \$54, he settled for less than half that amount.

Judas betrayed Jesus out of his own free-will. And he must ever bear the guilt.

Someone said people name their boys after Paul and their dogs after Nero. I am told that in some slaughter houses they have a "Judas goat." Its role is to lead sheep to the slaughter. That is the only thing I know that is named after Judas.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

100 YEARS

*Celebrating
Heritage
and Hope*

SS Board launches centennial celebration

NASHVILLE (BP) — Historian Leon McBeth characterized the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the "shaper of a denomination" during the May 25 launch of the board's centennial celebration.

"Sunday School and church" were described as "one word and one experience" for McBeth as he grew up in Cross Roads Church in Fisher County, Texas. McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, also is the author of *Celebrating Heritage and Hope*, a historical account of the board's first 100 years.

"No other agency or organization has done as much, I am convinced, as the Sunday School Board in shaping Southern Baptist activities and outlook," McBeth told employees gathered for the annual Anniversary Day Celebration.

"You have helped mold what we think and how we feel," he continued. "You have shaped our worship, our convictions, even our social lives."

State Baptists post second best month of giving

Mississippi Baptists posted their second largest month of giving in May with gifts through the Cooperative Program totaling \$1,974,898, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The largest amount of gifts recorded in a single month was in January of this year when the total was \$2,220,332. Gifts for the first five months of 1990 total \$8,772,263. This is \$850,156 more than that given in the same period of 1989, or a 10.73 percent increase. The pro rata budget for five months would be \$8,158,804. That is the

amount needed to achieve the budget goal if the budget were divided into 12 equal parts, and one part given each month.

The \$8,772,263 is \$613,459 over the pro rata amount, or 7.52 percent. The 1990 budget total is \$19,581,130. This means that Mississippi Baptists have subscribed 44.80 percent of the budget.

The gifts given by the nearly 2,000 Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi go to missions and education causes in the state and around the world.

McBeth said Southern Baptists "are to a large degree the collective result of your ministry over the past century. You have determined what we read and what we sing. You taught us what the Bible is and what it teaches."

He said his Sunday School quarterly provided "glimpses of how to draw out from the Bible a message for today," long before he had ever heard the term Bible commentary.

In fact, McBeth said he had never been to Nashville or heard of the Sunday School Board when it was affecting him so profoundly through use of quarterlies, hymnals, and training materials.

"No other Southern Baptist board or agency directly touched the rural church where I grew up," he said.

"The Sunday School Board was our only direct line with the larger Southern Baptist family."

"No Southern Baptist missionary ever spoke in our church, nor did anyone from the state convention or

(Continued on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, June 7, 1990

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Student summer missionaries won't go to the Philippines

By Mary E. Speidel

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — Forty-one Southern Baptist college students won't go to the Philippines as summer missionaries because of recent violence and threats against American service personnel there.

Philippine Baptist leaders have recommended that Baptist Student Union summer missionaries cancel their 10-week service planned this summer, said Sam Waldron, a Southern Baptist missionary administrator in the Philippines.

Eight Mississippi students, originally to serve this summer in the Philippines, have been reassigned as follows:

Anne Brannon — Israel, Mississippi College student from Clinton; Pam Brown — Virginia, Delta State student from Scott; Jay Bullen — Canada, Mississippi College student from Saucier; Tracy Fortenberry — Canada, Mississippi State student from Jackson; Sandra George — New Mexico, Mississippi College student from Morton; Ann Tullis — Arkansas, USM student from Columbia; Tina Williams — Canada, William Carey College student from Pascagoula; Steven Wright — Florida, Mississippi College student from Pearl.

The recommendation came after the May 13 shooting deaths of two U.S.

Air Force enlisted men in the Philippines. The New People's Army, the armed branch of the outlawed Philippine Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the deaths. The NPA warned that killings will continue until American troops and military bases leave the country. The lease for six U.S. bases in the Philippines expires in 1991.

Although NPA threats are not directed against American civilians, the U.S. State Department has issued travel advisories for Americans in some areas where the students would have worked, Waldron said.

Thirty-nine of the 41 students, who were trained and ready to go, already have been named to new assignments in the United States, Canada, Hungary, Israel, Korea, and Madagascar. Placement was arranged through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Baptist state convention student ministry departments.

Missionaries and Philippine Baptists are disappointed about the cancellation, Waldron said. Student summer missionaries "are always like a shot in the arm to us," he said. "We'll miss them."

The students would have worked in

about 50 Baptist churches on the Philippine islands of Luzon and Mindanao, Waldron said. They would have been involved in a variety of ministries, including personal evangelism, youth and children's work, and Bible teaching while living with Baptist families.

In the wake of the NPA threats, the 168 Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers working in the Philippines are limiting their travel, "but basically our work is uninterrupted," Waldron said.

Missionaries are feeling some tension, he said, but "we don't feel a personal threat at this time, especially as long as we're able to stay in areas where we're known and recognized. We feel our missionaries are safe."

The latest NPA threats indicate a shift in strategy for the guerrilla group, according to news reports. For the first time, any U.S. service personnel are potential targets for assassination, reports said. Until now, the NPA had said it was targeting only ranking U.S. officers, intelligence agents, and counterinsurgency specialists.

Mary E. Speidel is a staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board. FMB staff writer Marty Croll also contributed to this story.

Liberian fighting forces more missionaries out

By Donald D. Martin

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — More than half of the Southern Baptist mission force has left Liberia in recent weeks because of continued fighting between government and rebel troops.

Twenty-five Southern Baptist missionaries remained in Liberia June 1, down from 53 mission workers at the beginning of May.

Most of them were in Monrovia, the capital city. Seven were at mission stations in towns outside Monrovia, said Betty Kay Yamaoka, the Foreign Missions Board's associate area director for west Africa.

Missionaries still in Liberia are free to evacuate to Togo and Ivory Coast, Yamaoka said. However, most who have left have chosen to return to the United States on early furlough or personal vacation. All short-term mission workers are out of the country; only career and associate missionaries remain.

Most of the remaining missionaries were still planning to stay in Liberia despite the growing unrest, said missionary Robert Bellinger, of Carbondale, Ill., in a June 1 telephone interview.

Transportation options are limited

for the remaining missionaries, he said. Rebel troops have attacked government troops within a few miles of Robertsfield International Airport, 20 miles southeast of Monrovia, so air travel is quickly diminishing as a way out of the country. Driving also is not an option because fighting has made most roads unsafe, he added.

"We still feel safe," he said. "For the most part, I don't see any problem in staying. We're not a threat to anyone."

About 1,100 U.S. citizens live in Liberia. Most are either business people or missionaries, according to the U.S. State Department.

The United States sent the USS Saipan, a helicopter assault carrier, and five support ships to international waters off Liberia's coast May 30. The U.S. flotilla is said to be available for evacuation of U.S. citizens if needed. Bellinger, who is aware of the U.S. ships, said the U.S. Embassy in Liberia is in close contact with American missionaries.

Longstanding Foreign Mission Board policy places the final decision to evacuate or stay in a country with

(Continued on page 5)

Alcorn Baptists call DOM

L. Edward Gandy is the new director of missions for Alcorn Baptist Association.



Gandy

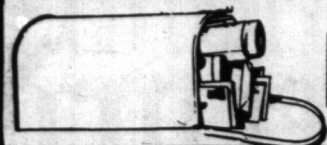
He goes to the new position from the pastorate of First Church, Kosciusko, where he served since 1977. Earlier pastorates include First Church, Bruce, 1971-77; West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, 1969-71; South 28th

Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, 1966-69; Line Creek Church, Kentwood, La., 1965-66; and Philadelphia Church, Brookhaven, 1964-65.

A native of Belzoni, Gandy is a graduate of Mississippi College. He earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

Gandy served in the U.S. Army and has been a store manager for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Monroe, La. Mrs. Gandy is the former Joan Eaton of Pelahatchie. They have two grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Gandy is president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference and is a trustee of Mississippi College.



Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Hospitality at Metairie

Editor:

On Sunday, June 10, Winfred Moore will be guest speaker in our 10:45 a.m. service. We would like to invite persons already in town for the Southern Baptist Convention to worship with us and hear this great man of God.

After the service, out of town guests are invited to share a red beans and rice lunch compliments of our church. Please come share a little New Orleans hospitality.

Tim Rayborn, pastor
Metairie Baptist Church
Metairie, La.

Preserve religious liberty

Editor:

I was shocked that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention is proposing an 87 percent cut in the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The BJCPA has been a united voice of Baptists for religious freedom since 1946, now representing nine Baptist denominations. They have consistently opposed government interference in church affairs, and have saved churches millions of dollars. For example, the BJCPA helped our foreign missionaries avoid having to pay taxes in both the country they serve and in the U.S., and helped protect tax-free annuity retirements for ministers.

This is one messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention who will vote to restore the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee and against taking the religious liberty program assignment away from the BJCPA to give it to the Christian Life Commission.

The proposal to cut the BJCPA would seriously cripple our stand for religious freedom and our ability to

Futrel to be honored at alumni luncheon

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Futrel, will be among four distinguished alumni to be honored next week by New Orleans Seminary.



Futrel

June 13.

The meeting will follow a barbecue luncheon for the seminary's alumni and friends, beginning at noon in the open quadrangle in front of the chapel.

A pastor for over 25 years, Futrel has just completed two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Other award recipients are Alfonso Olmedo, Argentina; Adrian Rogers, Memphis; and Arthur L. Walker, Jr., Nashville.

A shuttle bus will be available outside the Superdome to transport alumni to the seminary.

fight government interference at the time when the courts are more sympathetic with government intrusion in religion. Let's go to New Orleans and preserve our religious liberty voice.

Bob Rogers, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church,
Gloster

Eminently qualified

Editor:

In last week's issue of the Baptist Record there was a list of substitute nominations for the Southern Baptist Convention by Dave Montoya. My name was included on that list as a nominee for the Foreign Mission Board. When I discovered that Randy Davis of Vancleave was the other nominee, I asked Montoya to remove my name from his list. I believe that Randy Davis is eminently qualified to serve in this position. I have never known him to be involved in convention politics and know that he is a strong supporter of the Foreign Mission Board. He has my full support.

David Spencer, pastor
First, Long Beach

Attendance decrease

Editor:

Please see if you can find out what is going on in the church of Morris Chapman in Wichita Falls, Texas. There is a report circulating that approximately one-third or one-fourth of his members have pulled out of the church, many of them now attending a newly-started mission church. It does seem to be a very appropriate question to inquire about since he is an announced candidate for the presidency of our convention.

If this story has substance, it might have a bearing on how many of our people will cast their ballots in New Orleans.

Jerry Vardaman
Mississippi State Univ.

The loss has been about 400 or 500 out of a previous 1,800 or 1,900, according to two former deacon chairmen. So the one-third figure is a bit high. The one-fourth figure could be accurate.

The new congregation, Colonial Baptist Church, was supposed to have been a mission, a part of a missions emphasis in Texas; but the report is that the group formed a church instead of a mission. The attendance, according to the pastor of the new church, David Young, is about 200. Young, by the way, is a former pastor in Hattiesburg and went from there to become a mission pastor in Vermont. He went from Vermont to Wichita Falls. Mrs. Young is a Mississippian. The new congregation chooses not to refer to itself as a split.

The two former deacon chairmen, Hunter Jones and Leroy Daniel, both at different times reported unsolicited to the BAPTIST RECORD.

Jones is a former member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Daniel is a member of the BAPTIST STANDARD Board of Directors and a former chairman of that body. — Editor

"Watchman on the wall"

Editor:

I want to compliment you on your

editorial several weeks ago related to the SBC Executive Committee budget recommendation related to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. I hope you have received many encouraging letters regarding your insightful observations about the process surrounding the budget reallocations. My chagrin over this whole mess will only be multiplied if Baptists do not respond positively to your perspectives.

Thank you for being the watchman on the wall. Without you and some of our other editors, our folks possibly could be hoodwinked over what I am calling Fascist tactics.

Thank you for your good work and words.

William M. Tillman, Jr.
Fort Worth, Texas

Has freedom flown?

Editor:

Why are we being asked to believe the man-made statement that God's word, the Bible, is infallible and inerrant? Can this statement be proven? Knowing that the inspired scriptures are from God has been enough for me all my 79 years. Are our leaders modern Pharisees? Do they "rule" us? Has freedom flown out the window? Does theology save anyone? No, indeed, only Christ does. Please only ask us to believe in the Holy word of God. We all know scripture is from God. How it came to us is secondary. We can spend all our lives arguing about that and accomplish nothing except the devil's will. May we all be in prayer for each other.

Ira Lee Garner and Ruth Class
University Baptist Church.

Ira Lee Garner
Hattiesburg

All true, or none

Editor:

Morris Chapman, fundamentalist candidate for the presidency of our convention, recently stated, "I believe that this Bible is either all true, or none of it is true." What Mr. Chapman is really saying is that if any error is found anywhere in the Bible, then the story of Jesus is all false. It would appear that his faith in Jesus is dependent upon an absolutely perfect Bible. In other words, he really has a stronger faith in the Bible than he has in Jesus. When you get to cast your vote in New Orleans you would do well to remember this statement of his belief.

As for whether or not there are errors in the Bible, you might try applying II Timothy 3:16 to this Scripture: "Thou shalt not eat anything which dies of itself. You may give to the alien who is in your town, so that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner" (Deut. 14:21).

Ryburn T. Stancil
Brookhaven

My Prayer . . .

Dear Lord, please empty this earthen vessel of all its muddy water and fill to overflowing with new wine from Your divine cellar so that people everywhere will know I'm drunk on Your joy.

—Ruby Singley, Columbia

A first-grader's mother put a bowl of hot soup in front of him. He halted his first spoonful in midair and examined it with a frown.

"What's the matter?" his mother asked.

"Alphabet soup," he snorted. "Gee whiz, Mom, can't you let a guy forget school for a minute?"



Senior adult musical will premiere

Baptist Record staff member Irene Martin, center, discusses her new senior adult musical with Betty Anne Bailey, left, Baptist Record bookkeeper, and Renee Walley, circulation manager. The new musical, *Doors of Life*, has just been published by Genevox, the music publishing arm of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Parts of the new musical will be premiered at the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference next week in New Orleans. It will be presented at all senior adult Chautauquas at Ridgecrest; Glorieta; and Green Lake, Wis. in the fall. The senior adult choir of First Church, Clinton, will present selections of the musical at the Church Music Conference. The senior adult choir of Parkway Church, Jackson, will present the entire musical at Green Lake with Martin as the accompanist.

Chaplains to meet in New Orleans

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans will host the annual meeting of Southern Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. All endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors are invited to the meeting and complimentary luncheon Monday, June 11, said Huey Perry, director of chaplaincy for the Home Mission Board. The session will begin with registration at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

Myron Madden, the hospital's direc-

tor of pastoral care emeritus, will speak on the subject, "Pastoral Caregivers Face the 21st Century."

All sessions, including the luncheon, will be held in the McFarland Center of Southern Baptist Hospital, 4429 Clara St.

No advance registration is necessary, Perry said. Reservations for lunch are requested, but not required. The meeting coordinator is Chaplain Gene Huffstutler, Southern Baptist Hospital, 2700 Napoleon Ave., New Orleans, La. 70175 (504) 897-5961.

Lineberger slated to nominate Vestal

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church in suburban Dallas and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will nominate Daniel Vestal for president of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 12.

Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta where he has served since late 1988. Previously, the Waco native was pastor of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, for 11 years.

"Dan is a longtime friend, and he asked if I would nominate him," Lineberger said. "I said I would con-

sider it an honor to nominate him."

Vestal was nominated in 1989 but lost the presidency to incumbent Jerry Vines by a vote of 10,754 to 8,248. Vestal announced last September that he would permit his nomination again this year.

Also to be nominated are Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas. John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston, announced in February that he will nominate Chapman.

Another Texas pastor, Dan Bates of Millican Church, has announced he will nominate himself.

Druin is associate editor, Baptist Standard, Texas.

Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Church Annuity Plan since those reported in the May 10 issue of the Baptist Record: Atlanta: McAdams; Jeff Davis: Whitesand; Lincoln: Fair River; Rankin: Johns; Smith: Concord; Tallahatchie: FBC, Charleston; and Yazoo: Benton.

I think the booklover has an even better life of it than a gardener. A sudden frost may cause a gardener to cringe. Books are far safer objects of lifelong devotion. A book is not subject to the destructive fury of a sudden bad change in the weather. It does not have to be sprayed, fertilized, and pruned at regular intervals. It can be devoured by its owners but is ordinarily safe against rabbits, aphids,

and leaf-cutting ants. It is the cake you can eat and still have. If sturdily bound, it may last a lifetime even with frequent use. It can be handled lovingly and thoroughly enjoyed at any hour of the day or night and in every season of the year. A good book never cloy. A great book gives increasing pleasure every time it is opened. — John Kieran.

Church missions development

The second annual Church Missions Development Conference will take place July 26-28 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.



Dawson

This is considered equivalent to training for church missions development leaders which can be received at Ridgecrest or Glorieta.

Irvin Dawson, assistant director, extension section, field staff, for the Home Mission Board in the area of missions development will provide an overview of missions development work in the association and the local church.

Presentations will also be made by Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Director; Marjean Patterson, WMU director; Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School director; and Ray Grissett, Cooperative Missions director.

The general program at Gulfshore that week includes training for a number of other church leaders including church weekday education workers, church media librarians, youth leaders, secretaries, ministers' wives, deacons, pastoral ministries, and stewardship leaders.

The week includes Bible study led by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Billy Simmons, New Testament professor at New Orleans Seminary.

For details on registration, contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.



Bob Hamblin

Hamblin says non-soul-winners are out of fellowship with God

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS — "You are either a soul winner or you're out of fellowship with God," Robert L. Hamblin of Tupelo told students and faculty at New Orleans Seminary during the seminary's recent Gurney Evangelism Lecture Series.

The director of the L. D. Hancock Foundation and former vice president of the Home Mission Board said, "Evangelism is not boring. It is not a subject relegated to a few of us who know how to shout and stomp our feet." Instead, all Christians are obligated to be witnesses for Christ because they are saved by Christ.

"Some of you are not having answers to your prayers because you are not soul-winning," he continued. "If you're from God, you ought to be with God . . . and you will never be satisfied with your life unless you're bringing lost people to Christ."

Second, Christians should share Christ because "you have the most powerful thing in the world within

you: the power of Jesus Christ," said the native of Hamilton, Ohio. "Jesus Christ always goes before you; he will bring people to believe."

Christians should not be afraid to be confrontive while sharing Christ with the lost. "You have to tell (the Gospel) persuasively; you have to tell it in love; you have to tell it with total commitment to God," Hamblin said. "We don't really start churches; he starts churches."

"If you trust what you know, it will fail you," he continued. "If you go trusting your (church) programs, they will fail. If you go trusting your wonderful personality, it will fail. Our adequacy is in Christ."

Third, Christians should share Christ with others because of the loss of those who do not know him. "Every person in this world is responsible to seek God, and they don't, so they're lost," Hamblin said. "The hope for those people . . . is the blood of Jesus Christ. You're robbing the world if you don't take that message."

Fourth, because of the "wrath of God and the burning hell" Christians should share Christ with others, seeing them as condemned to eternal separation from God unless they come to Christ. Such a concern should push Christians to be messengers of God, sharing the message of Jesus with everyone they meet.

"I don't care how big your church is, you are not successful until lost persons are coming to Christ," Hamblin continued. "Evangelism is not just sharing the good news . . . It is intentional. It is something we do because we love God . . . And if we don't do it, we are out of fellowship with him."

Paine writes for N.O. Seminary.

Homecomings

Mt. Horeb Church, Collins (Covington): June 10; offerings taken for the day will go to cemetery fund; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Paul Wade, speaker; lunch at noon; Dennis McKay, pastor.



KEEP MISSISSIPPI CLEAN

Donald Martin writes for BP.

Thursday, June 7, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

BSSB . . .

(Continued from page 3)

any agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Sunday School Board," he said. "But, in that one-room church, we had our quarterlies, the Sunday School Builder, and a Standard of Excellence banner for Sunday School."

"What the board did for me individually, it did for millions of Southern Baptists," he said. What the board did for our rural church, it did for thousands."

"Sunday School Board quarterlies blanketed the South, taking careful pains to discover and explain what the Bible says and what it means for our daily lives," he continued.

"Every president from J.M. Frost to Lloyd Elder has been firmly committed to the authority of the Bible, and not one of them has ever wavered about keeping the Board and all its publications true to the Bible," he added. "We often hear Southern Baptists described as a Bible-believing people. I believe that description is accurate, and as a historian I credit the Sunday School Board for helping make it so."

"The Sunday School Board shaped the educational ministry of our churches and our denomination," McBeth explained. "Independent programs were tested, honed, streamlined, restructured, and 'baptized' to sharpen the focus, develop suitable literature and train needed leadership."

He said the board took an eighteenth-century Sunday School and changed, molded and adapted it to a new shape, reinventing it for Southern Baptists.

In the process, an independent parachurch appendage inherited by the board was converted into a church

school for all age groups "firmly anchored to the denomination."

McBeth gave much credit to the Broadman Hymnal for affecting the quality of worship in churches, because it was the first standard worship guide for Southern Baptist churches. He said this was the first introduction to worship aids for many churches and it brought the element of commonality.

"I really believe this board created the great consensus among Southern Baptists in the basics such as allegiance to the Bible, commitment to evangelism, and commitment to missions," McBeth said. "I respect state conventions, universities, state papers, seminaries, and other agencies, but when the Sunday School Board speaks it has the ear of the denomination."

"Churches that are large and famous or remote and small, the Sunday School Board speaks to them all," he continued.

"We need to get back to those basics and build a new consensus," he said, because that consensus has been fragmented over the past few years.

"Your great challenge as you enter your second century of service is to shape a new consensus for the twenty-first century," he added. "Help us rediscover a common outlook, a cooperative spirit, and a compassionate outlook upon a lost world."

Celebrating Heritage and Hope, the historical account of the board's centennial will be available in October 1990. McBeth spent a one-year sabbatical from his post at Southwestern Seminary to research and write the book.

Lowry writes for BSSB.

Liberian . . .

(Continued from page 3)

missionaries. Many of the missionaries were "carrying on with business as usual," Bellinger said. Many also were helping with food preparation and transportation for several hundred refugees who were moved May 31 from a United Nations compound to a Lutheran church. The refugees were attacked by a group of men dressed in military uniforms May 30.

Press reports said the men attacked the U.N. compound because the refugees were members of a rival tribe. The attackers killed a U.N. security guard, wounded two people, and abducted more than 30 people.

The United Nations has protested to Liberia against the attack. U.N. officials said they will evacuate all 57 U.N. personnel from Liberia.

Bellinger said Providence Baptist Church, along with other churches in Monrovia, is helping cook meals for about 700 refugees.

Violence in Liberia has spread as rebel troops advance toward Monrovia. On May 20 rebels attacked and eventually captured Liberia's second largest port in Buchanan, 75 miles southeast of Monrovia. Government and rebel forces clashed again May 27 when rebels attacked the town of Kakata, 40 miles northeast of Monrovia. Reports did not confirm whether the rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, gained control of the town.

Government troops have had little success in putting down the rebellion, which started last December when

the rebels invaded Liberia's Nimba County from Ivory Coast.

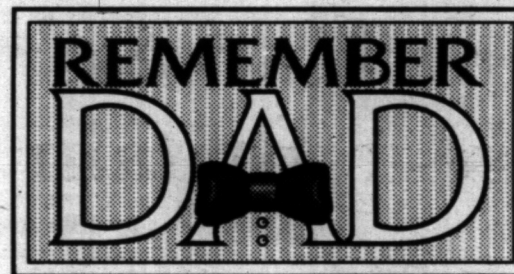
The rebels are trying to overthrow Liberian President Samuel Doe, who came to power after the assassination of President William Tolbert in a 1980 military coup. Doe has survived eight coup attempts during his 10-year rule. The rebels, led by former Doe associate Charles Taylor, accuse Doe's government of being corrupt and ruining the nation's economy.

Administrators of the Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary, a few miles southeast of Monrovia, closed the school May 23. The seminary, which has about 100 students, ended classes six weeks early. School administrators said they could no longer guarantee the safety of students and faculty.

The Ricks Institute, a Baptist school for kindergarten through 12th-grade students, also closed May 26 because of the fighting. The school is located about 15 miles west of Monrovia.

In Monrovia, leaders of Providence Baptist, the oldest church in Liberia, called for three days of fasting and prayer in response to the country's growing violence, said missionary Pat Bellinger.

The church also held a special service for the missionaries, she said. "In the midst of the turmoil around them and in their own distress, they are concerned about missionaries who work with them," she said. "We came to minister and found ourselves being ministered to by fellow Christians."



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Former Missouri presidents cite key areas of concern

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Twelve former Missouri Baptist Convention presidents have released a statement expressing concern over the future of the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptists' role in defending and preserving religious liberty.

"A Statement to Missouri Baptists by Some Who Have Served as Convention President," says the 3-page document is an effort "to alert our fellow Missouri Baptists of two issues of grave concern to us all: The Cooperative Program and religious liberty."

Describing "a threat to the Cooperative Missions Program," the statement says: "It alarms us that some people have called for cutting state conventions out of local churches' contributions through the Cooperative Program. They say state conventions are unresponsive to 'conservative concerns.' This criticism is unfair and unjustified. We think this proposal would seriously cripple, and perhaps kill, the missionary, evangelistic, and educational ministries of the Missouri Baptist Convention."

"We call on all Missouri Baptists to rally to the defense of the Cooperative Missions Program that has served Missouri and Southern Baptists well since 1925. Cooperation, not factionalism, is the heritage of Missouri Baptists. We must protect that legacy."

The second section details "a threat to religious liberty." The former presidents wrote: "It alarms us that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has recommended that the SBC reduce its

support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and assign the precious principles of religious liberty and separation of church and state to an SBC agency that has little, if any, experience in these areas."

"For over half a century, Southern Baptists have been working jointly with other Baptists in defense of religious liberty and church-state separation. This arrangement has worked well. We ask: Why change now? There's an adage which we think fits the current situation: If it's not broke, don't fix it."

The statement emphasizes that "Missouri Baptists, in particular, know that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has stood with us in protecting First Amendment values. Like Missouri Baptists, it has opposed government's interference with churches' business, government's sponsorship and promotion of religious exercises in public schools, government's use of its taxing power to aid education in church schools, and government's encroaching into an ongoing, entangling relationship with churches."

Noting that "in recent years the Missouri Baptist Convention has affirmed its support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," the statement recounted details of resolutions affirming the BJCPA adopted each of the past four years by MBC messengers.

"Last year our state convention specifically expressed disappointment with the SBC Executive Committee's proposal to give 'the assignment in religious liberty matters' to the SBC Christian Life Commission,"

the statement recalled. "It saddens us that the SBC Executive Committee, to whom our state convention president and executive director sent our 1989 resolution, has been so unresponsive to the expressed sentiments of Missouri Baptists."

"It further saddens us that the SBC Executive Committee has ignored five votes in six years in the Southern Baptist Convention in defeating efforts to starve the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by reducing or ending funding through the Cooperative Program."

"The protection of the principle of religious liberty and church-state separation is too important to be entrusted to an SBC agency of unproven ability. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has proven its commitment and ability for several decades. It deserves our continued support."

The statement's concluding paragraph declares, "We bring our concerns to your attention, Missouri Baptists, for we think that the situation is urgent. You know of us or of our work among you. We would not take this extraordinary means of addressing you as we have if we did not think that these times call for Missouri Baptists to defend their birthrights related to the Cooperative Program and religious liberty."

Former MBC presidents who signed the statement include Willard Bright, T.T. Crabtree, Homer E. DeLozier, G. Nelson Duke, Thomas S. Field, John Gilbert, John E. Hughes, Charles Hufft, Jim E. Jeffries, Wallace E. Jones, Milton Morales, and Hugh Wamble.

Missionary: 'brave cobra killer'

BUTUAN CITY, Philippines — Missionary Vickie Derby was at home in the Philippines when Bebeth, a girl who helps in the house, came running in yelling that a "baby" cobra was in the yard. With Bebeth close behind, Derby went to investigate. Sure enough, a cobra was coiled in the yard. Derby's husband, Rick, serves as the family cobra killer but wasn't at home at the time. A sickening feeling came over Derby; she would have to kill this cobra herself.

Very gingerly, Bebeth pinned the snake's head to the ground with a long board while Derby ferociously attacked it with a butcher knife. She stabbed the snake repeatedly, cut in half and battered its head, all the time yelling, "Gahi man (it's very tough)!" Pleased with her accomplishment, she carefully picked the cobra up with the butcher knife. Only then did she realize this was a "rare" breed of snake indeed — she and Bebeth had bravely attacked and killed one of the children's toy rubber snakes.

Clarke Assoc. resolution opposes state lottery

The Clarke Association Executive Board has passed a resolution opposing a state lottery and sent it to members of the Mississippi Legislature. A group of Clarke Association church members, led by Director of Missions Grady Crowell, plans to visit the Legislature during the special session beginning June 18 to lobby in opposition to a lottery.

In its statement opposing a lottery, the Clarke Executive Board notes that the association is concerned about the

"spiritual, moral, and physical welfare of the residents of Clarke County, the State of Mississippi, and the world . . ." The resolution points out that a lottery would be detrimental to that welfare and notes the negative effect a lottery would have on society.

The resolution states that "good morals and Christian standards should not be compromised to allow the implementation and legalization of a lottery in the State of Mississippi."

Southern Seminary closes Boyce center in Indiana

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary has closed its Boyce Bible School center in Indiana in response to a rift between the seminary administration and center Director Mark Coppenger.

Coppenger, executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, expressed his disenchantment with seminary policies and personnel in an article in the May 8 issue of the *Indiana Baptist*, the weekly newsjournal published by the state convention.

Boyce, a division of the Louisville, Ky., seminary, provides ministerial training for people without college degrees. The school's Indiana center conducted classes in Indianapolis and Kokomo during the spring semester.

In the article, Coppenger criticized several seminary professors and administrators, including the provost and president. He also accused seminary trustees of failing to deal thoroughly with concerns raised by the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee in 1986.

Seminary Provost G. Willis Bennett announced with "deep regret" that Boyce would close its Indiana center May 31. Boyce could no longer effec-

tively function in Indiana due to the climate created by the article, he said, adding, "At the same time, we express hope that the problems may be resolved and the work resumed under a new administration and with a cooperative spirit."

During an April meeting of Boyce off-campus center directors, Bennett informed the directors that the seminary expected Boyce professors to be loyal to the seminary and refrain from public comments that might engender distrust of Southern, he said.

In response, Coppenger wrote: "I observed that our teachers were only contract workers, performing short-term duties for the seminary, that they didn't 'belong' to the seminary in the same way that full-time professors did. And I suggested that one could be loyal to the seminary itself without supporting its current direction."

Bennett submitted a letter to the *Indiana Baptist* in response to Coppenger's article. In the letter, he charged that Coppenger had set "his opinion over every board of trustees which has served each of the past 10 years."

New Revised Standard Version of Bible now in bookstores

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — The newest version of the Bible, the New Revised Standard Version, is now in bookstores. Sponsors believe the new Bible, the product of 17 years of work by an interfaith team of 30 Scripture experts, will become the most widely used Bible in the U.S.

"It offers greater accuracy, clarity, and naturalness of expression," said Bruce M. Metzger, who chaired the translation committee. Metzger, 76, said the committee applied this rule in its translation of the ancient texts: "As literal as possible, as free as necessary."

The NRSV was produced by the National Council of Churches, which also

holds the copyright on its predecessor, the RSV. The new revision was produced by a team that included Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Jewish scholars.

Despite a movement toward "non-sexist" or "inclusive" language in some denominations, the NRSV retains references to God as "Our Father" and to Jesus Christ as the "Son of God." But masculine pronouns, and the words "man" or "men," have been eliminated wherever they do not appear in original texts or were unnecessary in translation. For instance, Matt. 4:4 now reads, "one does not live by bread alone."

'Spring Harvest' teaching weeks in Great Britain draw 65,000

By Mike Creswell

SKEGNESS, England (EP) — Next to Easter, the biggest spring-time event for evangelicals in Great Britain is "Spring Harvest."

Billed as the largest Christian teaching event in Europe, this year's sessions drew 65,000 participants to week-long meetings in resort complexes at Skegness and Minehead in England, and at Ayr, Scotland. All were filled to capacity in separate sessions held between March 31 and April 26.

In a land where church membership has declined rapidly in recent decades, Spring Harvest has become an annual rallying point for many Protestants. About one-third of the participants were Baptists, another third were from the Church of England. The remainder came from a variety of denominational backgrounds.

"You can't understand what's happening with Baptists in the United Kingdom today without understanding Spring Harvest," said David Coffey, the director of evangelism for British Baptists.

Spring Harvest is influential because new music, concepts, and programs introduced each year have quickly found their way into churches throughout the United Kingdom, observed Colin Saunders, a Free Church layman and chairman of the 13-member executive committee



overseeing the annual program.

Gordon Kuhrt, an Anglican archdeacon, said he is "very impressed" with the Spring Harvest, which "is an enormous teaching opportunity and has a tremendous effect on people's going back to their local churches with fresh vision and fresh resources."

The conference also yields financial support for Christian efforts: last year participants contributed about \$416,000 for relief work, missions, and evangelism.

This year's conference theme was "Uncage the Lion," based on a statement by Charles Spurgeon, the well-known 19th century London preacher,

who once wrote, "Defend the Bible? You may as well try to defend an uncaged lion."

Session planners brought together speakers from diverse backgrounds to present as many perspectives as possible on topics ranging from Bible prophecy to environmental concerns. Speakers from the Church of England shared the platform with those from informal house churches.

Next year's session will add a fourth site to accommodate an anticipated 90,000 people.

In the years to come, it may be said that Spring Harvest was at least one of the matches to light revival in the British Isles, which some observers believe is coming. "I really believe we're going to see a spiritual revival in Britain in the years ahead," said Belgium-based missionary Bill Wagner, Southern Baptist's consultant on evangelism and church growth in Europe. "I'm very excited about what I see happening in the churches there."

Signs of change are also appearing within the Church of England. Kuhrt said that when he was ordained 23 years ago, only about 20 percent of those ordained by the Church were evangelicals. Today, "it's around 50 percent," he said, "or just over. Over the next 20 years, a lot of those will be moving into positions of leadership."

Creswell writes for FMB.

Corts responds to Parks' letter

C. Mark Corts, a North Carolina pastor and immediate past chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, has responded to an earlier statement by Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board. Though Corts' is a somewhat longer statement than was Parks', we are printing it also. Corts is pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Though Corts is no longer chairman of the board, he stated in a cover letter that he was persuaded by the present chairman to send the statement to all state papers.

A meeting of the Foreign Mission Board is scheduled for June 8 and 9 at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Readers will note that Corts spoke to some issues that Parks didn't raise. Corts letter stated, "I offer this, not in an adversarial way, but as a colleague seeking to give a complementary and necessary balanced perspective."

The letter follows.

Dear Southern Baptists,

I join with Dr. Parks in calling for an urgent recommitment from all Baptists to share Christ with the whole world. While I deeply respect him and his sacrificial commitment to world missions, I question both the timing and conclusions of his letter, though certainly not his motives.

No doubt, the SBC controversy has taken some focus off missions; but it may be unfair for the controversy to be the scapegoat for our failure.

Some of the controversial issues handled at the Foreign Mission Board have gotten negative publicity. The controversy created the negative aspect of the publicity, but the controversy did not create the issues themselves. Many of those issues were matters on which the current Board of Trustees and the staff were in strong agreement. It is inappropriate to say that such matters as the new emphasis on evangelism, the 70/30 plan, the question of sending divorced missionaries, are all to be laid at the feet of the SBC controversy.

If "major supporters of cooperative missions" are no longer supporting missions because they feel excluded, their very withdrawal proves they may not actually be supporters of cooperative missions. I appeal to them to take an inclusive approach to missions and continue support for missions in spite of the temporary controversy rather than because of it. In the past when many "conservatives" felt systematically excluded, they were exhorted by many to continue their support for missions in spite of their concerns. If it were appropriate then, cooperative support for missions is appropriate now.

Because of our diversity we have always been a mixture of more than "two major groups." Today, as in the past, we have a wide variety of Baptists with many concerns and Baptists tend to cluster around those concerns. There is

a large number of loyal Baptists concerned about a loss of biblical authority who believe that the decline in missionary activity in many mainline denominations in the past 30 years is directly correspondent with the decline in biblical orthodoxy. They feel history serves a clear warning to Baptists today that we cannot separate our mission mandate from confidence in the integrity of the Word of God which provides that mandate.

The appeal to "rise above the controversy" may fall on its own timing. By appearing just a few weeks prior to the convention, the letter thrusts missions directly into the controversy and fuels it rather than rising above it.

The matter of missionary candidates appears to be cyclical without regard to the controversy. We have appointed 224 missionaries in the past six months; and, if that rate continues, this will be a year of record appointments.

Are not both the controversy and decline in mission support symptoms of our desperate need for revival and reformation? For instance, in North Carolina in 1977, Cecil Sherman reported that his Church Growth Commission had seen a decline in most major churches in North Carolina in the preceding 20 years. The fruit of that decline is just now being seen. The controversy may reveal our denominational weaknesses rather than create them.

In addition, we must ask, "What role does our soft national economy and troubled economic times in the oil belt, which traditionally provides strong Baptist support, play in this decline in missions giving?" Carl Johnson, our treasurer at the Foreign Mission Board, has identified that there is a definite correlation in the trend of the Consumer Price Index and our gifts, both to special offerings, the Cooperative Program, and total gifts to churches. The Consumer Price Index fell from 13.5 percent increase in 1980 to 4.4 percent in 1988; and we had a corresponding decline in rate of increase in the Lottie Moon Offering, the Annie Armstrong Offering, the Cooperative Program gifts, and total gifts to SBC churches. Unfortunately, we cannot ignore the truth that the giving and spending psychology of the world has heavily influenced our churches.

We dare not put our heads in the sand and deny the need for biblical reformation and spiritual revival among us for the sake of temporary peace and unity. Let us as Baptists be known everywhere as a people committed both to practicing missions and a biblical authority which is the foundation for our mandate to reach the lost persons of the world.

Prayerfully,

C. Mark Corts

Immediate past chairman,
Foreign Mission Board

capsules

Nigerians target 10,000 churches

IBADAN, Nigeria — Nigerian Baptists plan to start almost 7,000 churches in the next 10 years through their evangelistic program called "Operation Reach All." After more than a year of planning, Nigerian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries launched "Operation Reach All" in April. To reach a goal of 10,000 churches by the year 2000, church and mission leaders called for each of 3,200 existing churches to start a church every three years.

Mississippians get degrees at Southern

Carl M. White, originally of Jackson, received his doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. during commencement exercises held May 25. White is now pastor at Ingomar church, New Albany.

Those Mississippians awarded master's degrees during the same ceremonies were

Thomas E. Temple, master of arts, Meridian; Tommy Purvis, master of divinity, Iuka; Fred D. Breckenridge, master of divinity, Hattiesburg.

Receiving certificates in ministry training from the Boyce Bible School at Southern were Johnny L. Bqbo, Robert L. Copeland, Melvin Montgomery, and Corlee R. Shelton.

Alabama obscenity law shuts down New York firm

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (EP) — An Alabama District Attorney's efforts to enforce that state's obscenity law have driven a New York pornography company out of business. The Home Dish Satellite Corporation, which beamed hard-core sex films to 30,000 subscribers around the nation, and soft-core porn to 1.2 million customers, is facing criminal prosecution for distributing pornography in Montgomery County, Ala., and has been forced into bankruptcy.

New York's governor, Mario Cuomo, has been asked to extradite the company's four officers to face charges in Alabama.

Church held liable for misconduct of minister

ST. LOUIS PARK, Minn. (EP) — A jury awarded \$246,000 to a woman who was sexually abused as a teenager by a former pastor at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis. The jury found both the church and the minister liable for the woman's emotional suffering.

The woman's attorney, Jeffrey R. Anderson, tries clergy malpractice cases around the nation. He said this case was the first in which a church has been held liable for the conduct of a minister; other states have held that a church is not responsible for the behavior of its employees.

Coalition asks end to beer sponsorship of motor sports

By Bill Clough

WASHINGTON (BP) — Race cars have become like beer cans hurtling at 200 miles per hour around a race track, said spokespersons for The National Coalition to Prevent Impaired Driving.

At a news conference May 21 in Washington, the coalition announced it has launched its summer safe-driving campaign by calling for an end to beer sponsorship of motor sports.

The organization said it is offering "symbolic sponsorship" to two professional motor sports drivers who have refused to accept promotional funding from alcoholic beverage companies. "We believe that a broad policy agenda — one that looks at the drinking environment as well as law enforcement — is necessary to combat the staggering human and economic toll of drunken and drugged driving in this country," said Alexander Wageneer, chairperson of the coalition.

About 24,000 persons lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes last year — an average of one every 22 minutes. More than 500,000 suffer injuries from alcohol-related crashes — an average of one every minute.

"The coalition is proud to sponsor professional drivers who refuse to promote the association of beer and fast cars," Wageneer said as he introduced "monster truck" competitor Randi Lynn Hubbard and professional race car driver Michael Schrieffer.

"I try to provide a role model for kids," said Hubbard, one of two female drivers of monster trucks in the country. "If I can get across to the kids that drinking and driving is not safe, then that's what I want to do."

She has paid a price for her dedication. "Before I chose not to endorse an alcohol beverage company, I had 12

professional shows that would pay me a great deal of money," she said. "Subsequently, I've been told that those shows aren't going to be there for me."

Schrieffer's reasons for speaking out against drinking and driving are personal. "A few years ago a very close friend of mine was killed from impaired driving, so from here on out, I'm dedicating my professional efforts to promoting anti-drunk driving," he said.

Edward T. Popper, a professor of marketing at Bryant College in Smithfield, R.I., told reporters, "Through the sponsorship of motor sports events, drivers, and teams, the beer companies create an indelible image — that beer and high-speed, aggressive driving go together." He said that when these combine off the track, the result is thousands of needless deaths and injuries.

At the news conference, a new report entitled "Beer and Fast Cars: How Brewers Target Blue-collar Youth through Motor Sport Sponsorships" was released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington.

The report said, "Young males from blue-collar backgrounds are particularly likely to die in alcohol-related crashes. They tend to drink beer and drink to the point of intoxication more often than peers in other demographic groups."

The coalition has sent letters to Anheuser-Busch, Miller, Coors, and Stroh, asking them to terminate their sponsorships, appealing to the brewers' sense of citizenship, community values, and concern for public health and safety.

Clough is a freelance journalist from Washington.

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Hungarian mission aids BLA house

By Jerry Dunajick

On March 24, four of us Baptist men left the U.S. as a mission construction team, for Budapest, Hungary. We had been recruited by the FMB to help finish a building for the Hungarian Theological Seminary. The building is to house the International Baptist Lay Academy (IBLA). Since classes were to start in July, it was important to have at least some dormitories, a classroom, and an office ready for occupancy.

The IBLA is not a seminary but an institution for training bi-vocational pastors and lay leaders from central and eastern Europe. It will focus on those who have had little or no formal theological studies.

Our team consisted of two of us from First Church, Union, Miss. Charles Gardner has an insurance agency in Union, and has had extensive experience in construction and electrical work. He has been on several mission construction trips to Honduras and the Caribbean. I am retired from the Burroughs Corp. (now Unisys) where I worked on computers. I also retired from the Army Reserve after 35 years of service. Since I had rebuilt and added several rooms to the house in Little Rock, Miss., where I now live, I felt qualified to do some construction work. Both Charles and I had been on the Mississippi/Japan Partnership mission trip last October.

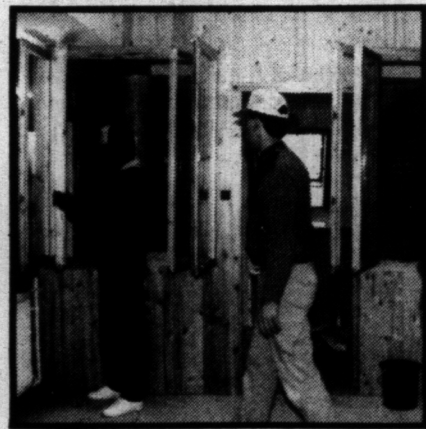
The other two men were from the Washington D.C. area. Barry Staley from Purcellville, Va., has his own carpentry business and a great deal of experience in all types of construction. Bill Ratliff is the pastor of the Belair Church in Bowie, Md. Both he and Barry had gone to Africa last summer and helped build a church.

The four of us were picked up at the Budapest Airport by Errol Simmons. He and wife Mary are the Baptist missionaries to Budapest. At the time we were there, they were our only Southern Baptist missionaries in Eastern Europe. The Simmons had been in Hungary for 14 months after serving 14 years as missionaries in Spain. Errol is from Franklinton, La., and Mary grew up in Jones County, Miss., near Laurel. They have three grown children.

We spent the first several days in Budapest staying at the Ecumenical Guest House, about a 20-minute walk from the seminary. It is owned by the

World Council of Churches. The rest of the time we stayed in the new dormitories we had cleaned up at the seminary. We ate most of our meals at the seminary where about a dozen students were enrolled in full-time studies.

When Simmons took us to the new building where we were to work, we had a real surprise. I had visualized some type of modest building with a few classrooms and not much else. What we found was a large five-story structure made of concrete and heavy brick, with brick veneer installed on the outside. It consisted of many rooms for dormitories, classes, a large kitchen and dining room, living quarters for the cook, and everything else needed for a full time live-in type boarding school. A very attractive chapel was attached to it. This was all still under construction. A crew of workmen, mostly bricklayers and helpers, were there from Romania,



"Women's work." Shown washing windows inside the IBLA building are Charlie Gardner, left, and Bill Ratliff.

along with several Hungarians. These were all paid workers. Anything volunteers did saved money for the Hungarian Baptist Union. A great deal of the construction costs have been donated by the Southern Baptist FMB.

The new building is directly behind the old original seminary building and will be connected to it by walkways and an underground tunnel for bad weather. The old building, in use since the early part of this century, is badly in need of repair. It will be completely renovated when the new building is completed.

During our stay in the new building, we became well acquainted with the

five flights of stairs from bottom to top. We were told that elevators are too expensive for even taller buildings in Hungary.

Our work took us all over the building but we concentrated on preparing the two top floors for early occupancy. While there, we did a little of everything: pulled electric wires, cables, and telephone lines through conduits; put in some conduits; laid rugs in the office and one classroom; laid a wood parquet floor; put together beds, desks, and chairs that we carried from the bottom floor to the top two floors. One of the toughest jobs for Charles and Bill happened on our first morning there, when they carried boxes of electrical equipment up three floors to a new storage area in order to clear a room for finishing.

The one thing we did that created the most excitement among the workers there was also the simplest job. We washed windows. In Hungary this is considered "women's work" and everyone in the place made it a point to come into the area at some time to see this phenomenon. Since these windows were covered with smears of paint, plaster, and a generous coating of dust, it was a pretty good "man's job" to get them clean. We cleaned all the windows on the upper two floors, including a number of inside ones in the office and classroom. After this, we noticed more of the stairs and hallways in the construction areas were being swept by one of the Hungarian men.

During our stay we were introduced to a number of typical dishes and eating customs. Soup was served at all the meals except breakfast. Lunch was the big meal of the day. Supper may be a bowl of thick soup, bread and sausage slices. Breakfast was usually bread and some types of cold sliced sausage and ham. The pastries, when we had them, were delicious. Since I was reared by parents who had come from Slovakia, across the Danube, and about a hundred miles from Budapest, I recognized several of the dishes and even knew their names. We drank tea and Coca Colas at meals. A small cup of powerful coffee was available after the meal, as is the custom of Europe, if you could handle it. Mary Simmons took pity on us and had us at her home for a few meals, including a "Mississippi style" breakfast. With a trip or two to McDonald's, we Americans managed to survive.

We were hampered on the job somewhat by the language barrier. Hungarian resembles no language in the world except Finnish. The foreman on the job, Karoly Csurke, better known as "Charley," had a very limited knowledge of English. He was also the chief electrician. With a lot of talking, some pantomime, and drawing things out on paper, we did get some of the more complicated work done.

The IBLA is an important step in furthering Baptist work in Central and Eastern Europe. It is affiliated with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The Simmons were sent to Hungary to get it started. Getting the building ready was an important first step. Errol Simmons will serve as associate director of the academy. Laszlo Gerzenyi, a long time leader of Hungarian Baptists, will be the director. At the time we left, April 7, they had 93 applications for entrance from nine countries.



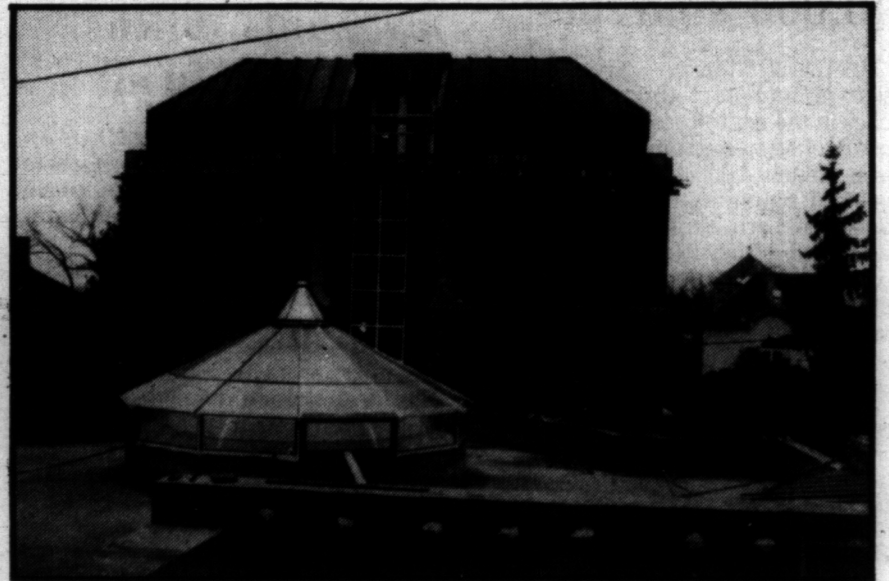
Romanian bricklayers work on the brick veneer of the new Hungarian Theological Seminary building in Budapest.

An exciting personal sideline for me was a visit by one of my relatives from Slovakia. A cousin came down on the Saturday and Sunday we were there. She had visited her in-laws in Budapest over the years and was fluent in the Hungarian language and knew her way around the city. She proved to be an excellent guide for sightseeing. At the same time I found out a lot about the new freedom and events in Czechoslovakia first hand. Since I remembered enough of the Slovak language that I learned as a child, we managed well.

We came away from this trip with the feeling that we could have done much more but were assured by the Simmons that we had done a great deal for them and had accomplished more than they had planned for us.

A trip of this type should be a must for every able-bodied Baptist. It certainly makes you aware of what is going on elsewhere among Christians and points out the glaring fact that we are materially blessed by God, well beyond what we probably deserve.

Jerry Dunajick is from Little Rock.



IBLA building in Budapest, Hungary, as seen from the roof of the chapel. Dormitories, a classroom, and an office in the building were made ready for the start of Hungarian Theological Seminary classes to begin there in July.

Homecoming

Rehobeth Church, Pelahatchie: June 10; A. F. Whitehead, former pastor, morning message; dinner on the grounds; afternoon song service with the Crystal River Boys and Greta Allen; offering taken up at worship service will go for upkeep of cemetery.

Laurel Hill Church (Neshoba): June 10; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Johnny Walker, morning message; noon, lunch; 1 p.m., recognizing former pastors and members and special music; Dudley Winstead, closing message; Wayne Griffith, pastor.

Bowlin Church, Sallis, (Attala): June 10, 10:45 a.m.; former pastor Joe Anderson of Boyle, guest speaker; music directed by V. B. Keith; Johnny Parks, pastor.

Second Church, Kosciusko, (Attala): June 10; Sunday School at 9:45; worship at 11 a.m.; Earl Ezell, guest speaker; fellowship lunch, noon; afternoon singing.

Union Church, Brookhaven, (Lincoln): June 10; 10 a.m., worship, followed by dinner and afternoon singing; Harrison Weger, former pastor, presiding.



Mission workers from left: Barry Staley of Purcellville, Va., Charles Gardner of Union, Miss., Bill Ratliff of Bowie, Md., Hungarian foreman "Charley" Csurke, and Jerry Dunajick of Union.

John McGraw visits India as volunteer

John McGraw, orthopaedic surgeon from Laurel, and president of the William Carey College Alumni Association, recently returned from a mission trip to India where he served as a visiting orthopaedic consultant to the Bangalore Baptist Hospital and as guest lecturer in orthopaedic surgery at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India.

McGraw's trip, for which he paid all expenses, was in response to a call for volunteer medical personnel which was issued at the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship meeting in Orlando, Fla., in October, 1989. In addition to his lectures on "Internal Fixation of Fractures," "Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction," and "Limb Salvage Surgery," McGraw

supervised the installation of orthopaedic equipment sent from the United States and donated by various medical supply companies in response to McGraw's request.

McGraw is a 1972 graduate of William Carey College. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and is active in the American College of Sports Medicine.

He volunteers his time to assist youth sports programs in Laurel, where he lives with his wife, Ann, and their children, Beth Ann and Jay. In First Church, Laurel, he is a Sunday School teacher and adult choir member.

13 International Service Corps personnel assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has named 13 people to work overseas through its International Service Corps program. Four have Mississippi connections.

ISC personnel will fill jobs in such fields as computer programming, church development, and teaching in seminaries. They will work alongside missionaries for periods ranging from four months to two years.

One couple was selected for assignment with Cooperative Services International.

John Dorr: Most recently employed as a marketing representative for Free in Jesus (Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation), Tulsa, Okla. Current address: 9939 South 71 East Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74133. Education: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, B.A.; CBN University, Virginia Beach, Va., M.A. Church: First Baptist, Maryville, Tenn. Hometown: Maryville. Assigned as a mass communications specialist with Baptist Publications for Lebanon in Cyprus for two years; married to a William Carey graduate.

Debbie (Mrs. John) Dorr: Most recently employed as a dental assistant for Dr. Richard Neill, Fort Worth, Texas. Current address: 9939 South 71 East Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74133. Education: William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., B.S. Church: First Baptist, Maryville, Tenn. Assigned as a church and home worker for two years, working in Cyprus.

Bill Winn: Most recently employed as a contract software programmer at Dow Chemical USA, Freeport, Texas. Current address: 220 Oyster Creek Drive, Lake Jackson, Tx. 77566. Education: University of Mississippi, Oxford, B.S. Church: First Baptist, Lake Jackson. Hometown: Lake Jackson. Assigned as a computer programmer/treasurer in the Philippines for one year.

Grace (Mrs. Bill) Winn: Most recently employed as a teacher at Brazosport College, Clute, Texas. Current address: 220 Oyster Creek Drive, Lake Jackson, Tx. 77566.

Devotional

Spending life

By Gene Hines

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it (Mark 8:35, NIV).

Let me tell you one of the saddest stories I have ever heard. But, sad as it is, it is a true story. And, sad as it is, it is not an uncommon story.

The story is about a man who grew old and died alone. The story is about a man who lived alone and grew old hoarding his money; hiding it somewhere in the little house in the country where he lived, year after year after year. It grew to be a fair sum, that money. Everybody knew he had it; nobody knew quite how much it was, but you heard the word "thousands" when people talked about it.

Then, the man grew older still and died. And all those "thousands" were somewhere in that little house in the country. The old man's relatives descended upon the house. They clawed and tore at one another. There were courtroom scenes and something about someone pulling a gun, and someone choking someone else. It was a story that kept the community buzzing for several weeks.

But, this is not just a story. It is a warning. A parable. A parable of what can happen when we set out to live by keeping what we have; hugging "mine" to the breast. "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it."

It seems to be a law of life as God created it that what is not used and expended becomes useless and dies. Play for ease, play to eliminate the risk, play the sure thing, and you eventually lose the game. That truth is at the heart of the paradox of the cross. Hoard life and lose it. Give life and find it.

Professor Malcolm Tolbert of New Orleans Seminary once wrote: "Rather than attempting to contrive his own future, the disciple is called to follow Jesus in utter abandonment, believing that God guarantees his future" (Tolbert, Malcolm, "Luke," The Broadman Bible Commentary, Vol. 9, p. 82). That puts it all together. Life is for spending. Life is for spending for Jesus Christ. "Whoever loses his life for me and the gospel will save it."

Gene Hines is a Southern Baptist missionary, Tokyo, Japan.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Job and Faye: kindred spirits

If anyone could complain about her circumstances, Faye Carter could. Like Joseph, whose brothers sold him into slavery, she has had reason to ask, "Why did these things happen to me?" And like Joseph, she knows that the turnings of her life are under God's control.

Faye has familial polyposis, a rare hereditary disease. Her great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother had it. Of her five children, three are daughters; two of them have familial polyposis, and the other has cancer of the bone marrow.

Besides this, Faye, at age 40, learned she had colon cancer. In the 27½ years since, she has had 27 major surgeries. After five weeks in the hospital in 1987, she had to take physical therapy to learn to walk again. In 1988 alone, she was in the hospital 10 times.

As Paul listed the calamities that he had endured, so could Faye. He mentioned beatings, stonings, robberies, weakness, painfulness, shipwreck, hunger, thirst . . . She could list pain, discomfort, loneliness, frustration, hunger, thirst, dehydration, hemorrhaging, kidney failure, heart failure, collapsed veins, long periods of sleeplessness, a punctured lung, ruptured abscesses, incisions that would not heal, intestinal obstructions, staph infections, and more — which have come as side effects or after-effects of the life-saving surgeries. To avoid malnutrition, she has had to eat four or five meals a day. To prevent dehydration, she has had to drink liquids almost constantly. Now she has an inoperable tumor in a bile duct.

Medical journals have published her remarkable story. When in December, 1962, her doctor, W. O. Barnett, told her she had cancer and removed her colon, she was the first patient on whom he had performed an ileostomy. Years later, in 1980, he tried with her a procedure for which he has become renowned across the United States, a procedure which was his own discovery, patterned on an idea he got from a Swedish doctor, Nils Kock. However, Faye was one of the few with whom a continent ostomy failed. Within five days' time, she had to undergo a second eight-hour operation to reverse the procedure.

She was born Faye Brantley in Leake County, on July 18, 1922, where her grandfather, Willie Spears, was a Baptist preacher. However, for many years she has lived in Jackson, where she resides in Highland View Apartments. At various times she lived at Vicksburg and New Orleans.

Like Paul, she can pinpoint the day she was born again. It was not on the road to Damascus, but it was in the Baptist Hospital in Jackson, on January 22, 1963. Baptized at 15, she realized later, "I was not saved." While she was in the hospital, the month after she learned she had cancer, a Presbyterian preacher kept witnessing to her.



Faye Carter

He would come to see her every day, not just for brief visits, but to sit for hours. "Even if I were asleep," she recalled, "he would stay and be there when I awoke. That January morning, I accepted the Lord at 8:30. When the preacher came in at 10, he knew it before I even told him, for he could tell I was different. I won't ever forget that day, and how much his witnessing and his concern meant to me." It was not until four years later, in 1967, that she was able to be baptized, at Burch Hill Baptist Church, where she is still a member, and where she became a Sunday School teacher.

Like Job, she faced obstacles that looked insurmountable. As if physical ailments were not enough, she lived through the trauma of a marriage break-up. Her husband, unable to watch her suffering, and to accept it, left her. Though she married again, grief had not yet finished with her. Within a year, her second husband died, in 1970.

"It has been a long fight," she said, "but the Lord has been with me." Her blue eyes filled with tears. With Job, she can say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." She praises the Lord for his sustenance. "Many times I have wanted to give up," she said, "but the Lord brought me back from despair. My suffering is nothing, compared to Christ's suffering."

In the midst of calamity, she finds joy in small daily blessings; a sermon on television — "I like to listen to Dr. Frank Pollard"; 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; the ACTS station — "it has been a great blessing"; several apartment neighbor friends — "they have been wonderful to me"; the beauty of paintings, quilts, and bedspreads she did in days when she felt better — "the bedspread with the birds of 50 states I did in liquid needlepoint."

Spiritual lessons learned through suffering, she has passed on to others. "Her beautiful life is an inspiration to me," said her friend, Frances McMillon. Many have told her that after seeing what she has been through, they feel more able to endure their own suffering.

Strength comes to her through Bible reading: "I study my Bible a lot. If you read one verse over and over, every time it will have some new meaning for you. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — read them and see that Jesus came to save sinners. He wishes for everyone in the world to be saved. I witness as much as I can, but not everybody wants to discuss the Bible when I try to talk about it."

Truths from his Word have given her strength, too, to face the future. "We are all born to die," she said, "and don't know when our time is coming. Jesus told us to watch and pray . . . When I wake up every morning, I thank the Lord he let me live through the night. My prayer is that when it is my time to go, that he will take me quickly. I want his will to be done."

Student organization to rally in N.O.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Heads of three Southern Baptist missions organizations will join Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate Daniel Vestal as speakers at an outdoor rally in New Orleans June 11 on the eve of the SBC's annual meeting.

Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, an organization of students from the six SBC seminaries and more than a dozen Baptist colleges, is sponsoring the "homecoming rally." The focus will be on "our Southern Baptist heritage and future," said national coordinator David Bur-

roughs, a student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Burroughs said Sons and Daughters had invited five SBC leaders to speak briefly on the theme. Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, and Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, accepted invitations. Burroughs said SBC President Jerry Vines and presidential candidate Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, declined invitations to speak because

of schedule conflicts.

The rally will begin at 9:30 p.m. Monday, June 11, at Duncan Plaza across from City Hall on Perdido Street, two blocks from the Louisiana Superdome, site of the June 12-14 SBC annual meeting.

Sons and Daughters was begun earlier this year to "call for an end to denominational strife and for freedom to minister unhindered, as called by God, in order to fulfill the stated purpose" of the SBC. The organization's primary effort has been enlisting students to focus on daily intercessory prayer for SBC leaders.

Banquet will honor Flowers

Jones County Baptists will honor the director of missions of Jones County Association, Maurice E. Flowers, and his wife, Mildred, with a retirement banquet Thursday, June 28, 7 p.m., at the Family Life Center of First Church, Laurel. All Jones County Baptists are invited to attend. Ralph T. Simmons, associational moderator, will serve as master of ceremonies. Ticket chairpersons, Wade Rogers and Sue Hood, are promoting the banquet ticket sales through Jones County's 50 churches. Ticket price is \$6.00, and sales deadline is June 21. No child-care will be available at the host church. Older children and youth are invited to the banquet.

Dell Scoper, banquet chairman, said friends of the Flowers family who are not members of a local Baptist church are also invited. "Maurice and Mildred Flowers have been a positive force in the Laurel/Jones County area for over 20 years," Mrs. Scoper said. They have associated with many individuals and organizations outside the formal structure of the Jones County Baptist Association.

Roger Wade, steering committee chairman, says, "The program will be outstanding, including representatives from the convention and state levels on hand to honor our beloved director of missions and his wife who have given us such exemplary leadership for many years."

Individuals who desire tickets by mail may send a check to the Jones County Baptist Associational Office, P. O. Box 845, Laurel, Ms. 39440.



Helping To Bring Mississippi And The World To Jesus!

The Chinese Baptist Church, Cleveland, experienced a meaningful revival. The meeting began on May 13 with Mother's Day services at 2:30 p.m., with a banquet following. There were 92 people present. The schedule for the week was an evening service Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with a fellowship meal after each. On Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 there was a Bible study. There was an average attendance of 50. This is significant in that a normal Sunday afternoon worship attendance is from eight to 12.

On Friday night, during the invitation, eight public professions of faith were made. Six of these were couples, either near or of retirement age. Two were younger ladies.

The attendance was composed of Cleveland people and others visiting from Belzoni, Charleston, Greenwood, Indianola, Greenville, and other neighboring communities.

The revival preacher was Chee Wu. Wu has served the Cleveland church as pastor on two different occasions. He also was pastor of the Chinese congregation of FBC, Memphis, during the 60s and 70s. He is now retired and lives in Carson, Calif.

As director of missions I meet with the congregation for their regular Sunday afternoon worship services.

Before these additions the resident membership was 16, with a total membership of 47.

The congregation is excited and grateful for the evident work of the Spirit of God this past week.

Odin Henderson, DOM
Bolivar Association, Merigold



Mildred and Maurice Flowers

Covington-Jeff Davis Association observes open house May 20

Covington-Jefferson Davis Association observed associational emphasis week with open house Sunday, May 20. The theme was "The Baptist Association: Churches Working Together." The event began with a program of music and recognition of associational staff and officers. Music was provided by the choir of First Church, Mt. Olive, and the Staff Quartet of Prentiss Church.

Ken Stringer, director of missions, recognized Nancy Parish, associational secretary; pastors; administrative committee; executive committee; trustees; and associational officers. Pastors present were (Covington Association) Wilson Presher, Michael Davis, Don Riley, Dennis McKay, LeBron Matthews, Joe Abel, Dwayne Kelly, Gene Douglas, and Billy Purser; (Jeff Davis Association) Charley Cook, Jack Winscott, Ray McCorkle, Robert Dunn, Paul Blange, Randal Walker, Murray Hux, Robert Keyes, and Joe Ratcliff.

WMCs break participation record

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A record number of associations and churches participated in World Missions Conference in 1989, said Kenny Rains, director of WMCs and associational relations at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Rains also announced the recipients of three annual WMC awards.

Associations participating in WMCs in 1989 numbered 237. Churches participating numbered 4,171. In 1988, 185 associations held WMCs and 3,867 churches participated. Total attendance at WMCs last year was 1,124,349.

Some 426 people at WMCs made a commitment to a career in missions or to volunteer missions service, and

MC plans N.O. breakfast

Mississippi College alumni attending the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, La., June 12-14, are invited to a complimentary continental breakfast on June 13, sponsored by the National Alumni Association.

The breakfast is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and will be a flow-type meeting running from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Burgundy Rooms A, B, C and D. Tickets will be available in the Mississippi College booth located in the exhibit area of the Superdome.

"There will be no formal program or long-winded speeches, although we will make certain recognitions. We just want this to be a time for our alumni to come together in one place for food and fellowship," said Bernard Blackwell, director of alumni affairs.

Ratcliff.

Guests viewed displays of associational work and toured the Family Life Center and associational office building. One item of interest was a new map of the association with a photograph of each church, the associational office, and director of mission's home.

The association is made up of 32 churches; 18 in Covington, 14 in Jeff Davis. Churches registering were Calhoun, Cold Springs, Collins, Leaf River, Lebanon, Lone Star, Mt. Horeb, Mt. Olive, Ora, Rock Hill, Union South, Willow Grove from Covington, and Antioch, Bassfield, Bethany, Dublin, Ebenezer, Hathorn, Old Hebron, Oak Grove, Phalti, Prentiss, Society Hill, Victory, Whitesand from Jeff Davis.

During the fellowship time guests heard music by Charlene Byrd of Union South Church. The event was video taped by Nelda Mitchell.

518 people made professions of faith during their WMC.

In addition, Rains said the Augusta Baptist Association in Georgia will receive the Lewis W. Martin Award for an outstanding WMC. R. Eugene Dailey is director of WMCs for Georgia.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia will receive the Bernard King Award for outstanding old-line state convention WMC participation. Lloyd Jackson is state WMC director for Virginia.

The Northwest Baptist Convention is the recipient of the Ella Keller Award for outstanding WMCs in a new-work state. Harold Hitt is convention WMC director.

ACLU sues judge who prayed in courtroom

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (EP) — A North Carolina judge who is being sued by the American Civil Liberties Union for praying in his courtroom will be defended by attorneys for the Rutherford Institute, a non-profit Christian legal organization specializing in religious liberty cases.

Mecklenburg County District Judge H. William Constangy is being sued in federal court by the North Carolina chapter of the ACLU and five Charlotte lawyers. The suit charges that Constangy's practice of making a brief plea to God for justice at the start of each court session is an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion.

The attorneys bringing the lawsuit say they'd had to go out of their way to avoid the prayer, and some claim they've felt compelled to bow their heads, even though they did not wish to do so. They claim Constangy's prayers have caused them "irreparable harm."

The suit against Constangy was filed six months after he acquitted six pro-lifers charged with trespassing during an abortion protest. Pro-abortion lawyers complained to the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, but a state investigation found no evidence of misconduct. A week after the results of the investigation were announced, the state ACLU chapter filed the lawsuit over Constangy's prayers.

Staff changes

Lewis Harrell has accepted the position as minister to students at Faith Church, Starkville, and began



Harrell

work there May 21. Harrell was graduated from New Orleans Seminary on May 18, with a master of religious education degree. While at the seminary, he was president of the Mississippi Club, 1989-90. He is a Mississippi College graduate. His father, Paul Harrell, is director of the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson.

Paul E. Roaten has accepted Ethel Church in Attala Association as pastor, effective June 17. He has served with the Foreign Mission Board since 1970 in Uruguay and has been on inactive leave because of the illness of his son. Previous church served includes Temple Heights in Oxford, 1967-70.

Jeff Holeman has been called as new minister of youth at First Church, Calhoun City.

A native of Yazoo City, Jeff is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and served as youth interim at First Church, Arlington, Texas while attending Southwestern Seminary this past year. Anthony S. Kay is pastor.

Greg Gober has been called as minister of youth at Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill (Montgomery). Gober is a native of Arley, Ala. He studied at the University of North Alabama and at Mid-America Seminary.

First Church of Bruce (Calhoun) has called Denise Riley to be children and youth director, effective May 15. Miss Riley is a native of Water Valley. She received her bachelor of arts from the University of Mississippi, and was a summer missionary to Israel in 1989.

Terry Cain has been called as minister of music at the Hebron Church in Grenada (Grenada), effective February of this year. He is a graduate of the New Orleans Seminary, and goes to Hebron from Friendship Church in Grenada.

Ronnie Irwin has been called to be minister of music/youth at the Commission Road Church in Long Beach (Gulf Coast). He goes from a similar position with the Bethlehem Church, Albany, La. Ronnie is a student at New Orleans Seminary. Greg Martin is pastor of Commission Road.



Irwin

City passes moratorium on storefront churches

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — The Minneapolis City Council has instituted a one-year moratorium on storefront churches. The moratorium, enacted with very little public notice, establishes a period during which the council and zoning office can "study the effects of relocation of religious institutions into buildings or facilities which historically have provided goods and services which serve the needs of respective neighborhoods." During the one-year study period, which can be extended by the council, no new religious institutions can be established in certain zoning districts, primarily neighborhood and community-level business districts.

Pastor Michael Owens of New Bethel Baptist Church, a predominantly black congregation, said he feels the city was wrong to pass a ban on churches, and feels the ban was aimed specifically at his church.

Owens' church purchased a former photographic studio which had been empty for two years, in a traditionally white area that is becoming racially mixed. The church leadership met with Alice Rainville, the city council member of that building's neighborhood, to discuss their plans. A short while later Rainville introduced the "Moratorium on Religious Institutions" ordinance.

Asked about the reasons for the moratorium, Rainville doesn't mention New Bethel Baptist Church. She talks instead about neighborhood decline. "There are certain things that signal decline of neighborhoods," she says. "I think it's my job to protect our neighborhoods and our viable business districts."

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Just for the Record

Thursday, June 7, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Mississippi Baptist activities

June 12-14 Southern Baptist Convention; New Orleans, LA

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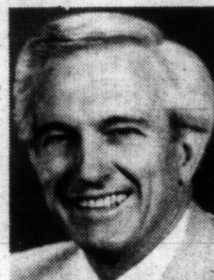
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Dorsey Church, Itawamba Association, held a note burning ceremony recently to signify the fact that its building is paid for and the church is free of debt. Participants in the ceremony were the trustees, left to right, Tony York, Troy Hamm, Carl White, and Pastor Jerry Estes.

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will observe its 34th anniversary, Sunday, June 10, with an old-fashioned covered dish dinner in fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. No night services.

Joe Stovall, former pastor, will bring the morning message and special guests will be "Young at Heart Washboard Band" from Philadelphia.

Vacation Bible School will be held at McAdams Church, Attala Association, June 11-15, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration will be June 9, 2-4 p.m. Mrs. Ann Godfrey is director. Jimmy Kettleman is pastor.

Goodyear Church, Picayune, held dedication services for its church building, and also celebrated the 12th anniversary of its pastor, Arlis F. Grice, on May 6. Kent Megehee, Laurel, was guest speaker. Others on program were Mrs. Bonnie Saucier, Picayune, and Hilbert Miller, chairman of deacons. The auditorium was completely renovated and chandeliers were installed.

First, Jackson choir to sing in New Orleans

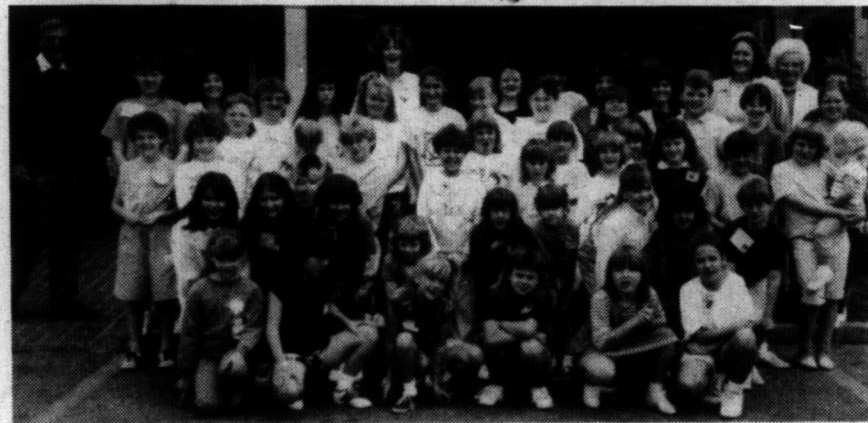
The choir and orchestra of First Church, Jackson, will participate in worship at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans. The choir will sing at 8:30 a.m., Thursday morning, June 14.

Larry Black is minister of music and director; Eddie Anthony is associate minister of music/media and orchestra director; Phil Dickerson is choir president; vice presidents are Jobie Melton and Gene Damoth.

This is the sanctuary choir's third time to sing for an SBC. They also sang in Dallas and in St. Louis.

Homecoming

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln): May 10; 138th anniversary; 11 a.m. speaker, Emerson Tedder; 1 p.m., special music; cemetery memorial service and offering; Robert Perry, pastor.



GAs of Marshall Association met at the nursing home in Holly Springs, and shared a time of singing and fellowship with the residents. Following the missions activities they had a picnic and heard Stephanie Corey, daughter of Charles and Patricia Corey, missionaries to Guatemala. Janet West is GA director. Don Stanfill is director of missions, Marshall Association.

Senior Adult Corner



Women who hosted a recognition for senior adults at the Salem Church in Raymond are, from left: Crissy Osborn, Annette Ferguson, Ruth Ann Osborn, Liz Shelton, Gina Osborn, Brenda Wade, Debbie Pouns.

Salem Church in Raymond honored its senior adults on May 6 with a luncheon following the Sunday morning services. The young women of the church offered the luncheon, after which Woodrow Clark of First Church, Clinton, delivered a message. This was the first time a recognition of senior adults had ever been presented in the history of the Salem Church.

On April 8, senior adults from Oral Church (Lamar) made an excursion to the Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile, Ala. The trip, sponsored by the Oral BYW, was the first in the new church van. The 10 who attended were Ray Aultman, Ruby Brooks, Gladys Hanberry, Annie Rose Griffith, Ada Mae Draughn, Willie Joe Edgar, Deloris Edgar, Werdna Armstrong, Virgie S. Robinson, and Dorothy Foster. The seniors were driven by Jerry Hanberry, and were assisted by Marlene Hanberry, Linda Gail Stanley, and Mary Lou Graves.

Central Hills announces schedule

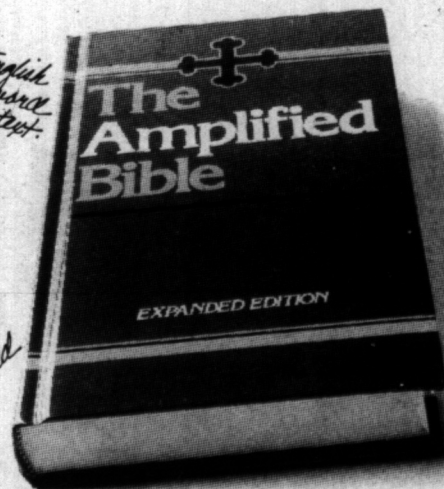
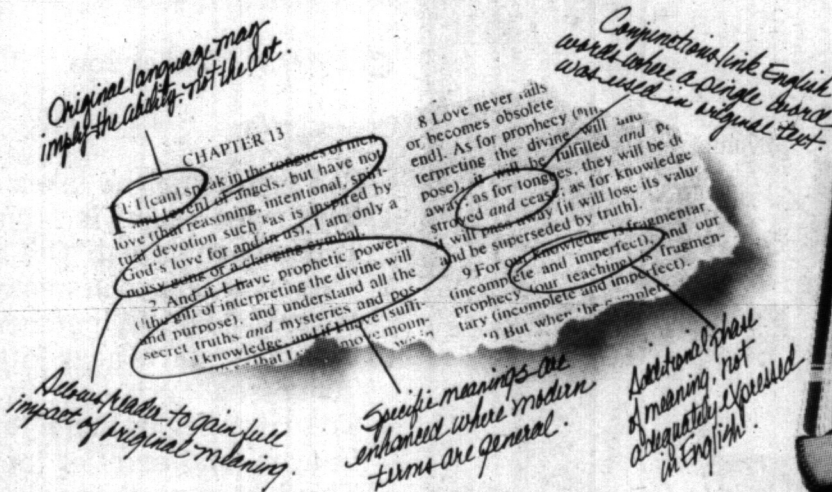
The summer missions camp schedule at Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko begins June 18-22. Other dates for the camps, which are for boys in grades 4-12, are June 25-29, July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27, and July 30-Aug. 3. Cost of these camps is \$80 per boy.

Dad and Lad Weekend camps, for boys in grades 1-3 and their fathers, are June 22-23, July 13-14, and July 27-28. Cost of these camps is \$20 per camper.

To register for any of these camps, write Dan West at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Box 237, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0237, phone 289-9730.

It is perhaps a more fortunate destiny to have a taste for collecting shells than to be born a millionaire. — Robert Louis Stevenson

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Thursday, June 7, 1990

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Pictured at right is the mural in the nursery at Hamilton Church, Monroe County, that was drawn by Mitchell Sanders and painted by his mother, Jane Sanders. The mural is painted on three walls from ceiling to floor.

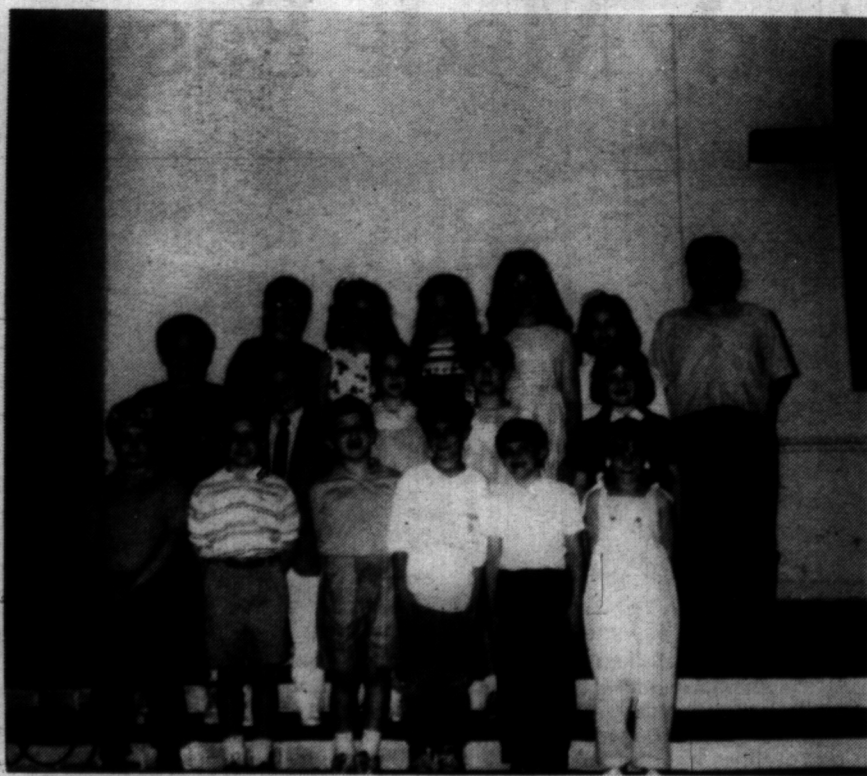


Hi!

My name is Bethany Allred. I'm 14, in the 9th grade, and I'm a member of the Sunflower Baptist Church. I love to write long letters, swap tons of things, and more. I love to write, so I'm looking forward to all of your letters. I promise to answer all. I'll be waiting.

Bethany Allred,
Rt. 1, Box 50
Sunflower, MS 38778

Hi! My name is Rachael Allred, and I'm 14 years old. I go to Sunflower Baptist Church. I promise to answer ALL long letter pals, and some others. My hobbies include music, hanging out with friends, writing, meeting new people, and much more. I hope I'm interesting, because I don't want to bore you. So, write soon and let's become GOOD friends. Oh, also send a picture if you can, along with your phone number, and birthday. My address is Rt. 1, Box 50, Sunflower, MS 38778.

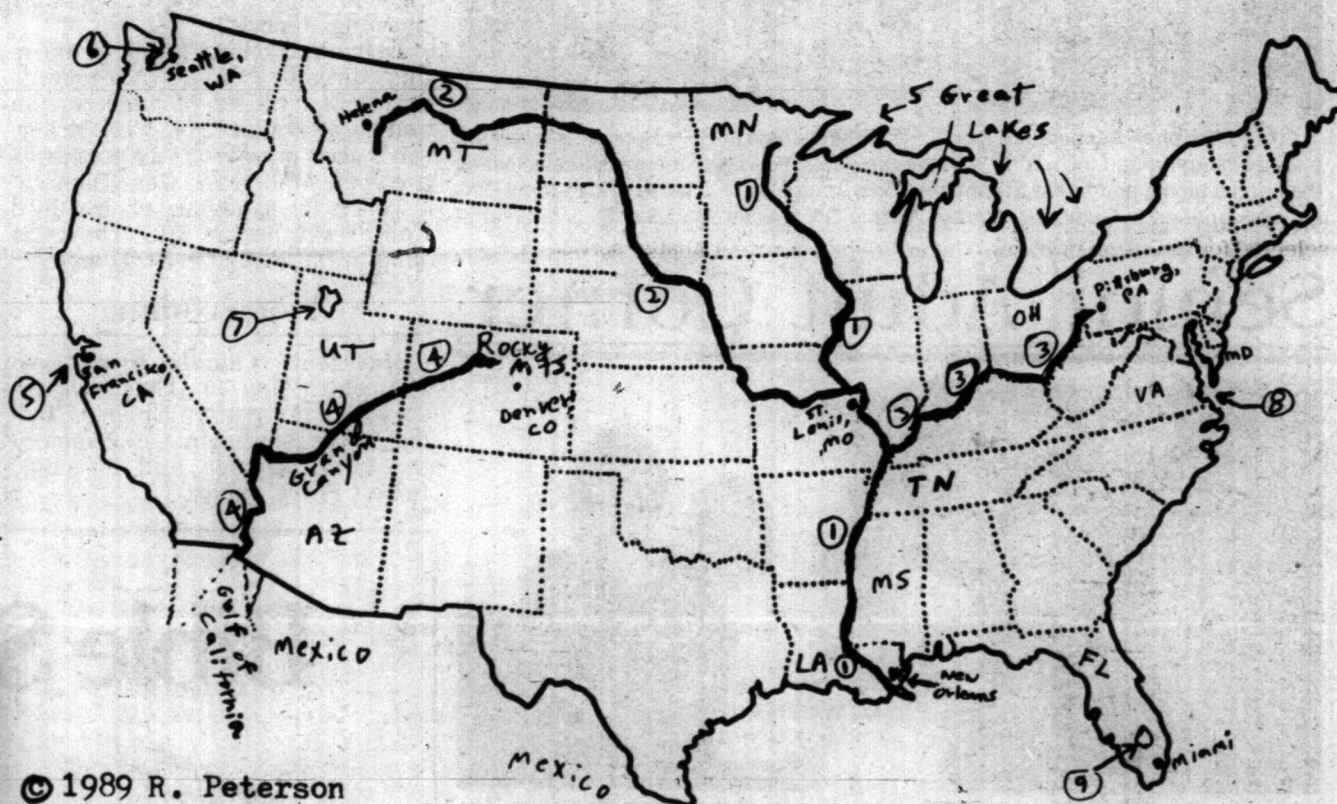


Shown above are the spring's members of the Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, "Keep It In Your Heart Club." Front row, from left are: Jeff Davis, Luke Carpenter, Brad Roberts, David Klopfenstein, Richie Booker, Anna Smith. Middle row: Ray Wright, Corey Cooper, JoAnna Booker, Elizabeth Gibbons, Katie Howell. Back: Bethanie Hontzas, Tina Egnozzito, Ginger Jackson, Katherine Dossett, Kimberly Magee, Mindy Howell. These children earned membership in the club by memorizing all of their memory verses in Sunday School for the months of January, February and March.

GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers)

Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



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MAP QUIZ

Can you name the lakes and waterways on the above map of the U.S.?

1. This river begins in Minnesota and empties into the Gulf of Mexico below New Orleans. It has been called "Old Man River" and the "Father of Waters."
2. This river begins in western Montana and joins with river #1 just above St. Louis, Missouri. Rivers #1 and #2 together form the longest river system in North America.
3. This river starts near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and empties into river #1 just above western Tennessee.
4. This river begins in the Rocky Mountains above Denver, Colorado, passes through the Grand Canyon, and empties into the Gulf of California below Arizona and California.
5. This bay in northern California is an important harbor on the Pacific. The Golden Gate Bridge spans it at the entrance to the harbor.
6. Seattle, Washington is located on this important inland waterway, the _____ Sound.
7. the Mormons settled near this lake in Utah in the 1800's.
8. This bay separates Virginia and Maryland. The Naval Academy at Annapolis is located on it.
9. This natural fresh-water lake north of Miami is the largest in Florida.

Answers: 1. Mississippi River 2. Missouri River 3. Ohio River 4. Colorado River 5. San Francisco Bay 6. Puget Sound 7. Great Salt Lake 8. Chesapeake Bay 9. Lake Okeechobee



Patricia Simmons, consultant, WMU, Jackson (left) attended the 1990 writers conference at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala. Seated with her is Kathryn Kizer, editor of *Start and Share* magazines for Mission Friends. Simmons joined more than 60 writers from across the country to receive training to write WMU materials for the 1991-92 church year. (PHOTO by Clay Allison)

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary has elected a Filipino as president for the first time in its 35-year history. Severino Fabila, who served in higher education for more than 20 years, was elected to a three-year term beginning in May. Formerly he was president of Southern Baptist College in M'Lang.

Wayne Watson, contemporary Christian artist from Houston, Texas, will be presented in concert at Forest Church, Forest, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but a love offering will be taken. Sonny Adkins is pastor.

Lois Jane will be in concert, Sunday, June 10, at the 11 a.m. worship hour at Coat Church, Magee. Mike Thompson is pastor.



Mr. and Mrs. Wathon Bray of Rt. 1, Box 196A, Cowhee, Tenn. will be celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, Saturday, June 9. Open house will be held from 1-4 p.m. at New Liberty Church, Glen, Miss.

Their daughter, Gwen, and son-in-law, James Blalock, of Macomb, Ill., and grandchildren will host the celebration.

Revival dates

County Line Church, Union (Neshoba): June 10-14; Danny Lanier of Meridian, full-time evangelist, preaching; Ronnie Smith, Countryside Church, Ticefaw, La., music leader; services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. week days; Keith Fulton, pastor.

President emeritus Berquist dies after extended illness

Kansas City, Mo.—Millard J. Berquist, president emeritus of Midwestern Seminary, died May 22 at the Delmar Gardens Nursing Home in Overland Park, Kan., after a five-month illness with cancer. He was 88.

Berquist was the first president of Midwestern Seminary, accepting the position in October, 1957—before seminary facilities even existed.

A native of Kansas City, Kan., he returned to the area of his birth to administer the opening of Southern Baptists' youngest seminary. During the previous 15 years, he had been pastor of two Florida Baptist congregations: Riverside Church in Jacksonville and First Church in Tampa.

Berquist officially retired from the presidency in July, 1972, but continued administrative duties until his successor, Milton Ferguson, assumed of-

fice in February, 1973.

During Berquist's 15-year history with the seminary, approximately 1,500 students from 40 states and 16 foreign countries studied at Midwestern.

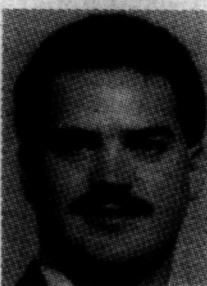
Funeral services were held May 25 at 2 p.m. in the Midwestern Seminary auditorium in Kansas City.

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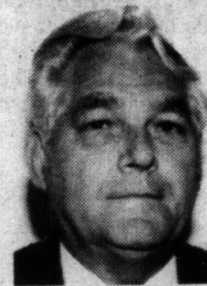
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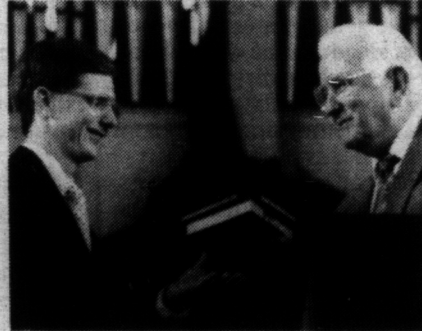


Aycock

H. C. Crenshaw, pastor, Center Grove Church (Lauderdale), has been selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in Mississippi*. His 21 years of volunteer work with the deaf people of East Central Mississippi has included preaching in sign language, teaching, counseling, and general pastoral ministries.



Crenshaw



Gary L. Permenter (left), of West Point, received the Outstanding Student Award during a recent chapel service at New Orleans Seminary. Permenter, representing the master of divinity degree program, was one of five students to receive awards. "The recipients of the Outstanding Student Awards have been chosen on the basis of excellence evidenced to an uncommon degree in three principle areas — personal and spiritual qualities, academic achievement, and professional promise," said Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president, who presented the award.

BTN will televise SBC

The live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, June 12-14, will be televised for the sixth consecutive year on BTN. Listed below are many of the sites along with times that will carry the SBC on BTN in their local area and who responded with the information requested from the Department of Broadcast Services, MBCB.

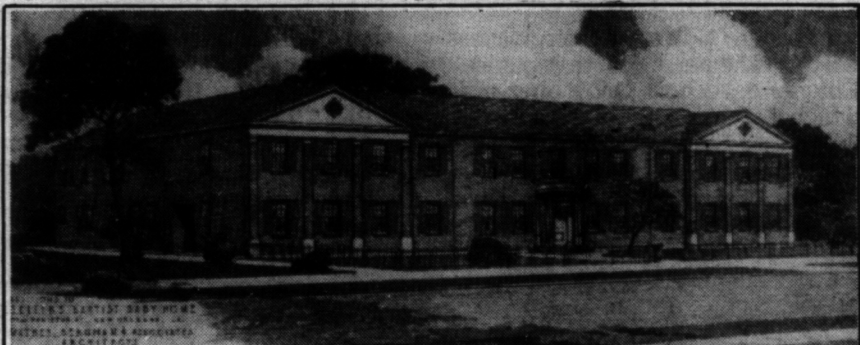
The signal from BTN will be unscrambled for the SBC telecast so anyone who has a dish can pick it up. BTN is on Spacenet I Satellite, 120 degrees South, Channel 21.

Association or Church
Calvary BC, Tupelo
Calvary BC, West Point
Covington-Jeff Davis Assoc.
Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale
First BC, Byhalia
First BC, Gulfport
First BC, Hazlehurst
First BC, Kosciusko
First BC, Magee
First BC, Philadelphia
First BC, Vancleave
Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
Hinds-Madison Assoc., Jackson
Jones Co. Assoc., Laurel
Lauderdale Assoc., Meridian
MBCB, Jackson
Moss Point FBC, Moss Point
Temple BC, Hattiesburg
West Jackson Str. BC, Tupelo
Golden Triangle Bapt. Mission
East Columbia
First BC, Verona
First BC, Brandon
White Oak BC, Magee
First BC, Louisville
First BC, Plantersville
Madden BC, Madden

Time Available
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
entire convention
entire convention
8:30 a.m.-closing
entire convention
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
entire convention
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
entire convention
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
entire convention
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
entire convention
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
entire convention
entire convention
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location
Family Ministry Center
Pastor's Office
Associational Center
CBC, Room 107
Fellowship Hall
Conf. Room, Administration Bldg.
Church Parlor
FBC, Activities Office
FBC, Adult III S.S. Dept.
Media Center
FBC, Fellowship Hall
HBC, Room 160
Large conference room
Associational Office
Lauderdale Bapt. Center
Chapel, Baptist Building
Old Fellowship Hall
Conference Room
Choir Rehearsal Suite
Associational Conference Room
Church Library
FBC, Education Bldg.
FBC, Media Center
Fellowship Hall
Lower Auditorium
Church Nursery
Church Auditorium

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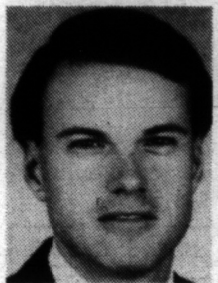
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"Purity in conversation in a profane culture"

By N. Allan Moseley
James 3:1-18

The cover story of the May 7, 1990, issue of Time magazine is entitled "Dirty Words: America's Foul-Mouthed Culture." The article



Moseley

reveals the depths to which our culture has fallen by exposing the language used by rock groups, rappers, outrage humorists, and shock-radio disc jockeys. Topics unimaginable only a few years ago are now standard fare. Sexually explicit dialogue, satanism, profanity, suicide, chain-saw murder, and other themes are graphically familiar to children too young to read the Hardy Boys. There is no doubt that God's wonderful gift of speech is being misused in our society. We are hearing the bitter fulfillment of the words of James written so long ago — the tongue is "a world of iniquity."

We should be grateful to God for his gift of language. Just think what life would be like

BIBLE BOOK

without it. Parents are elated over the first few words spoken by their baby, because communication is now possible (only a few years later the same parents think the child will never stop talking). The tongue can be used as a powerful tool for good. With the tongue the Gospel is preached ("how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" Rom. 10:14). Speech also is used to spread knowledge (Prov. 15:7), and to encourage and enrich the lives of others (Prov. 25:11, 25). Words are indeed powerful. James warns the reader not to be deceived by the size of the tongue — it is small, but its potential to harm or help is disproportionate to its size. To illustrate his point, James supplies three examples of small things that have great power. The first example is a bit in a horse's mouth, the second is a rudder on a ship, and the third is a spark that starts a forest fire.

The tongue is "a world of iniquity," that is, all kinds of sins are committed through the misuse

of speech. One such sin is lying. In the Bible it is stated that God hates a lying tongue (Prov. 6:16-17). Christians should be characterized by absolute truthfulness, but how often has a parent told a child, "Tell them I'm not home"? There is no biblical distinction between the colors of lies. Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that a white lie is preferable to a black lie.

Another sin committed with the tongue is complaining, or criticizing. Someone has said, "It does not take much size to criticize." Especially concerning the work of God and the people of God, Christians must refrain from criticizing and speak only "that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). We should also remember that one may incur the judgment of God when he/she speaks against a servant of God (Num. 12).

Another sin of speech is gossiping. Prov. 26:20 reads, "Where no wood is, the fire goeth out; so where there is a talebearer, the strife ceaseth." How many small problems have become major conflagrations because of irresponsible repetition (not to mention embellishment)! We should remember that it

is just as bad to pass counterfeit money as it is to make it. If the gossip happens to be true, will repeating it help the individuals involved? Before we speak, we should think — T-H-I-N-K.

Is it True?
Is it Honest?
Is it Important?
Is it Necessary?
Is it Kind?

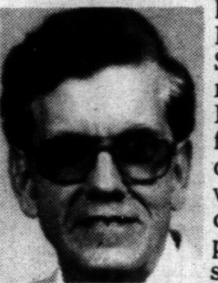
Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account therefore in the day of judgment" (Mt. 12:36). He also said that what we say is an indication of what is in our hearts (Mt. 12:34-35). If our tongues are used to praise God and bless men, it is evident that our hearts are right. If our tongues are used to take the Lord's name in vain and curse men, then there is evil in our hearts. If we praise God sometimes and curse men at others (Jms. 3:9-10), it is a signal of double-mindedness (Jms. 1:8). Give the Holy Spirit control of your tongue, and ask him to tame it; you are not able to do so on your own (Jms. 3:8).

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport).

God's forgiveness offer is validated by acceptance

By Wayne Campbell
Jeremiah 3:12-15, 19-23

Many years ago, George Wilson was sentenced to be hanged for mail robbery and murder. He was granted a pardon by the President, but



Campbell

he refused to accept it. The President consulted the Supreme Court about the matter. Chief Justice John Marshall rendered the following decision: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson, therefore, must be hanged." And so he was.

Although God's offer of forgiveness is extended, it is validated by our acceptance. Jeremiah, Chapter 3, records God's offer of forgiveness which Jeremiah is to proclaim "toward the

LIFE AND WORK

north," that is, to Israel, who had already felt God's judgment administered through the Assyrians. Judah is to hear the message also, however, for it is apparently intended as a reminder of what sin had brought upon her sister nation. Yet the offer of forgiveness expressed here is the same for anyone willing to receive it.

What is God's forgiveness dependent upon? "Return," God says, "for I am gracious." His appeal is based upon his very nature. If God were not gracious, we would have no reason to expect forgiveness. Although God's judgment expresses his attitude toward sin, his mercy reveals his attitude toward the sinner. It was his nature, not our own, that moved him to pay the price of our forgiveness and redemption.

But then God's forgiveness is also dependent upon man's acknowledgement of guilt (vs. 13). Despite God's desire to pardon, he can not forgive sin that we refuse to confess.

A primitive Indian woman took her family's laundry to the river on washday. But when she got there, several of her neighbors were already washing their clothes. Because she was ashamed for her neighbors to see how dirty her laundry was, she simply dipped her bag of clothes in the water a couple of times and took them back home, wet but still dirty.

God asks his people to admit they have transgressed against him. Denying guilt does no one any good. Nothing had been expected of them that they could not do. God had sought to guide them, but they had not obeyed him. They were guilty, both by commission and by omission. We, too, need God's forgiveness in both areas (vs. 13).

Although admitting we have sinned is necessary, that admission alone does not solve the problem. Some individuals will freely admit that they do wrong, but they never seek forgiveness from the Lord. The impression given is that simply admitting the wrong is supposed to excuse it. Still others will admit that their lives are not right, but they have the idea they must make things right before they turn

to God for help. The biblical perspective is that we are to "turn" (or return) and God will do the healing (vs. 22).

Turning from sin to God is the heart of repentance. Although they had violated their relationship with him, God promised deliverance and restoration to the individuals willing to repent.

Only he who paid the penalty of our sins has authority and ability to forgive our sins. All other attempts at remedying the problem are a deception.

To those who accept his offer, God extends not only the remedy for our past faithfulness, but also his "knowledge and understanding" to help us avoid repeating the same sins. God's relationship with his people is portrayed here as that of "companion" or "husband." Although he knows us intimately, he loves us dearly. If we cherish that relationship as he does, then awareness of sin in our lives should prompt the response depicted in vs. 21-23, in which we turn our back on our foolishness and reach out to God for his forgiveness.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

Is life fair? "The most difficult thing . . . is to wait"

By Tommy Vinson
Psalm 37:1-11

The drug pusher drives a Mercedes with a car phone. The pornography distributor lives in an opulent mansion with all the available amenities. The merchant of death fills his bank account at the expense of the slaughter of pre-born infants and goes on a cruise to the Bahamas. How does this make you feel? How are we to respond to the apparent prosperity of the wicked? Our psalm for this week deals with that difficult issue.



Vinson

David wrote Psalm 37 as an old man (vs. 25). He had been a keen observer of life, and had drawn some helpful conclusions about this age-old problem of the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the godly. He counsels those of us who are confused about this apparent contradiction to do several things.

I. Fret not (vs. 1)
The word means "to blaze" or "boil over." He is saying that we are not to be "hot and bothered" about the successes of the sinful. They may make meteoric appearances, but their end will be swift, certain, irrevocable destruction. Like tender grass which offers no resistance to the sharp blade of the mower, so the wicked shall fall before the keen-edged judgment of a holy God.

II. Trust and obey (vs. 3)
We are to continue an attitude of trust in God, even when we do not understand. Misunderstand-

UNIFORM

ding is a part of life. The verse indicates that it is impossible to really "trust in the Lord" without "doing good" (James 2:14-20). This faithful activity assures that God will provide for our needs. For years David had lived as a hunted fugitive, yet he had not missed a meal. Through God's providential care he now sat upon his former enemy's throne.

III. Delight in the Lord (vs. 4)
Instead of being preoccupied with the prosperity of the wicked, we are to fill our minds with thoughts about our Lord (Phil. 4:8). To focus on our misunderstandings and problems leads inevitably to depression. When we "delight in the Lord" we can raise above our circumstances. Several years ago I heard a very successful pastor challenge all those present at a Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference to look only to their personal relationship to Jesus Christ as their source of joy. He had experienced the trinity of baptisms, budgets, and buildings, but found that only Jesus Christ could give him lasting joy.

IV. Commit thy way unto the Lord (vs. 5)
The word "commit" means "to roll over." The heavy burden of our misunderstanding is to be rolled over on to the strong shoulders of our Savior (I Peter 5:7). Some would say that "seeing is believing," but in this instance our "believing" is necessary for our spiritual eyes to comprehend the ultimate victory of the righteous. Verse 6 indicates that in his own time the Lord will vindicate the righteous. When we stop fretting, start trusting, and begin to delight

in the Lord, then the obvious result will be a deep-seated commitment to the Lord.

V. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently (vs. 7)

The idea here is for one to "be still before the Lord." He counsels us to wait when we are tempted to question the rightness of God's providence. The final chapter has not been written. The word translated "wait" is used in other places to describe the travail which accompanies and precipitates childbirth. The word affirms the fact that the most difficult thing a man of faith can do is wait. It involves genuine agony, but it is agony which is rewarded. "There

is pain, but it is birth pain" (Alexander McClaren, Psalms, page 253). God is worth waiting for!

*"Not until the loom is silent and the shuttle cease to fly
Will God unroll the pattern and explain the reason why
The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the life that he has planned."*

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

West German church sends cars, Bibles to Romania

KAISERLAUTERN, West Germany (BP) — An English-speaking Baptist church in West Germany has made aid to Romania a major ministry, sending two cars, 700 Romanian-language Bibles, and other items to help Baptist work there.

The two used cars, provided by Faith Church in Kaiserlautern, West Germany, are being used to transport Romanian Baptists to a series of teaching sessions in a "School of the Prophets" program led by visiting Southern Baptist professors. Scores of Romanian Christians are receiving training in the Bible and ministry through the program.

Members of Faith Church, a

725-member congregation, come mostly from the 12 U.S. Army and Air Force bases in and around Kaiserlautern. About 100,000 American military personnel live in the area.

Six men from Faith church recently went to Romania for 10 days to deliver the cars and other supplies. Four are members of the American military forces assigned to NATO bases in West Germany.

"The Romanians were impressed to have American NATO officers in their country, since in their army people were never promoted to officer level if they were Christians," said Faith pastor Jim Tomberlin.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mar. 31, 1990

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(To be continued)

Quality quilters quilt in quantity



Wrapped in quilts are members of the quilting club at Ephesus Church, Scott County. Front row, left to right, are Mary Brogdon, Ellen Guthrie, Mary Redd, Juliet Hundley. Second row: Thenetia Jones, Trudie Jones, Elma Jones, Dorothy Lackey, Hettie Driskel, Jean Eady. Top row: Ozella Sharp, Glenda Godfrey, Margie Burkes, Myrtice Driskel, and Mary Lou Harrelson. Quilters not pictured are Paula Money, Wynona Tucker, and Lorraine Warren.

By Anne W. McWilliams

Ephesus Church women are all wrapped up in quilts. Once a week they meet to quilt and eat. Between-times they piece quilts, sell quilts, and talk quilts.

These quilters never quit. Since their quilting club began five years ago, they have met at the church every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.;

their number of members has increased from three to 20. It all started when crafts were being collected for an auction. Someone gave a quilt top to be auctioned, and women from Ephesus quilted it. "You can get addicted to quilting," one of them said. It must be true.

The reason for this story is this: That small group of women in five

years has sold \$16,000 worth of quilts. That money the women have given to their church building fund to help pay for their beautiful blue-carpeted brick sanctuary in Scott County. Their quilting hall is the auditorium of the old sanctuary. Most of them are women with small incomes, they have found a way to use their sewing talent to serve the Lord.

One quilt they made another church bought to give to a children's hospital. Other quilts have been given to people whose homes burned. One quilt went to a family that lost their possessions in a tornado.

Quality quilts, these are. They sell from \$200 to \$250 each. Buyers have been church members and other individuals. No advertising has been done except by word of mouth. If someone will buy all the fabric, thread, and other quilt makings, the club will quilt it for \$75.00. Sometimes they receive donations — no strings attached — to buy materials for quilts or whatever other "equipment" they need.

Fan, Log Cabin, Broken Star, Dahlia, Dresden Plate, Oak Leaf, Double Wedding Ring . . . On and on the list goes, and grows. The quantity of quilts mounts. As many as 35 have been ready to sell at once. The women may work on as many as three quilts each Tuesday. And it takes three Tuesdays, usually, to finish quilting one. A couple of weeks ago, 15 quilt tops were pieced and ready to go.

Fellowship, of course, is a big part of this club. Though most of the quilters are from Ephesus, several come from Forest and Hillsboro and other churches. They all bring food to contribute to the Every Tuesday Covered Dish Lunch. As one who learned by taste test, I can tell you the quality and quantity of their food is as great as the quality and quantity of their quilts. Chicken pie, ham and egg pie, potato souffle, turnip greens, peas, coconut cake . . . Their recipes have been collected and printed in *The Country Cookbook*.

Thenetia Jones, wife of the Ephesus pastor, Kenneth Jones, wrote a story about the quilters, published in *Quilt* magazine. She said that as these women sit and stitch they often tell stories of "the old days" — of making

hominy and lye soap, and of killing hogs . . .

This summer's issue of *Quilt*, by the way, has an article, too, by Thenetia, about her mother, Mary Brogdon of Hillsboro, and her quilts that have been used for everything from cover to pallets on the floor for kids, to wrapping a block of ice, in those "old days."

Thenetia said her husband's first pastorate was at Ephesus. "We came here at age 18, just married, from Harpersville." They stayed five years; then he served several other pastorates. Ephesus called them back, 20 years ago, and they've been there ever since.

Last Tuesday she wrote, "We had a great time quilting today. We got two out and put in two more."



To celebrate Ephesus' centennial in 1988, the pastor's daughter, Carol Ann Jones, designed a quilt to depict the church's history. Done in dominant shades of blue, it hangs in the sanctuary, which has blue upholstered pews and blue carpet.

Clowns minister through Lepsogs troupe

By Shannon Simpson



"Before." Howard and Sally Stevens at Greenville High School, where the Lepsog clown troupe presented a program. Seventeen children, ages third grade and older, made decisions for Christ as a result of the Lepsog program.



"After." Howard and Sally Stevens at the Southern Baptist Seminar for Clowns in Nashville.

Sally Stevens is a special woman who has been called to an unusual ministry. She is director of the clown troupe Lepsogs (gospel spelled backwards), and has been in that capacity for almost four years. Sally and a group of girls from the Rankin County Association started the troupe in 1986 to minister to youth groups and non-Christians. Since then, the ministry has grown by leaps and bounds.

One of the largest functions on Lepsogs' calendar is the Mississippi State Fair, where they witness to people through the Wordless Book, a book of colors based on gospel stories to tell the message of salvation. Another major function of the Lepsogs is their work through Child Evangelism, an inter-denominational group which goes to housing projects and other areas to draw under-privileged children out to hear the message of the gospel.

"The clown outfits allow us the opportunity to draw the children out of their houses, so we don't have to go deep into the projects," said Stevens. "The kids love these clowns because they are genuinely uplifting. You know, clowns never bring people down."

A member of the Pelahatchie Church, Sally said she had no idea that clowning had been in Southern Baptist churches for so long — 10 years — until she discovered that fact at a recent Southern Baptist Clowning Seminar held in Nashville. Sally and her husband attended in order to learn how to start other clown troupes around the state.

"We are so busy, and we just don't have time to do all the programs people invite us to. Right now, we're booked solid until August," said Stevens.

The March seminar, sponsored by the Sunday School Board, was fruitful in more ways than one. While in Nashville, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were able not only to learn, but do a bit of ministering of their own. As they walked down the streets of Nashville, they came across a young man named Todd, a street person. Todd was in his late twenties, was shabbily dressed, and had a huge black eye. They stopped to present him with a Wordless Book, but not before giving him some money. Sally said they were able to share the plan of salvation with him, but she realized how hard it was to tell someone who has nothing that God loves him, " . . . unless they can see part of that God in you, willing to share your material gifts as well as Jesus."

The Lepsogs will spend the re-

mainder of the summer giving pre-Vacation Bible School promotions, and delivering programs at churches in the Jackson area. They have frequently made appearances at the Rankin Correctional Facility, and the Salvation Army, as well as other places where "straight" evangelism would not be so readily accepted. Lepsog clown troupe initiated 20 decisions for Christ in April.

Sally says she felt her call to clowning through her artistic bent, and the training she had as an image and make-up specialist. She feels these talents are used well in the projecting it takes to spot a "good clown face." Sally is also a practicing magic illusionist (all of her magic illusions point to Jesus Christ!), and her husband Howard is a balloon animal maker.

The Lepsogs are mainly high school

girls aged 14-16, but there is also a troupe called Lits (Lepsogs in Training), who are younger kids with aspirations to clown for Christ.

"The peer system works really well in our troupe. We don't have to recruit new clowns. Because it's such a successful ministry, it's really popular with the younger kids," Sally explains.

Mrs. Stevens wanted to stress the fact that the Lepsogs are available to do programs, and they also are ready and willing to teach programs with the Wordless Book, or any other tools they have available. To contact the Lepsogs, call Sally Stevens at 854-8914.



Lepsogs and Lits (Lepsogs in training). From left, Stephanie Wallace, Concord Church; Misty Miller, Emmanuel Church; Pearl; Jennie Davis, Pelahatchie Church; Clancy Stuart, First Church, Morton; Nikki Miller, Emmanuel Church, Pearl; Alison Rogers, First Church, Morton; Brent Robinson, Shiloh Methodist Church; B. C. Rogers, First Church, Morton. Not pictured are: Gretchen Winstead, Leesburg Church; Nicole Duncan, Antioch Church; Chad Thompson, Morton Church; Tammy Rogillio, Morton Church.

Baptist Record

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